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APPROVED
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AUTHORITY

the AMAZING SPIDER-MAN

I'VE DREAMED
OF THIS MOMENT
FOR YEARS,
SPIDER-MAN!

NOW--AT LAST--
**J. JONAH
JAMESON IS
TRIUMPHANT!**



J.R. JR. + D.G.



I AM THE WATCHER...
AND MY RACE WAS OLD
WHEN YOUR PLANET'S SUN
WAS STILL A'BORNING.

IT IS MY FATE TO
OBSERVE AND RECORD
EVENTS IN YOUR TINY
CORNER OF THE
COSMOS. MINE IS
THE POWER TO SEE
WHAT IS... AND
WHAT MIGHT HAVE
BEEN.

BUT THERE ARE WORLDS BEYOND EVEN THOSE WHICH
EXIST IN THIS REALITY AND THE NEXT... WORLDS NOT OF
ENERGY AND MATTER, BUT OF THOUGHT AND MIND...
WORLDS WHICH EXIST ONLY IN THE IMAGINATIONS OF
THE DREAMERS AND...

THE DAYDREAMERS!

STAN LEE PRESENTS:
ROGER STERN / JOHN ROMITA JR. / DAN GREEN / JOE ROSEN
WRITER / PENCILER / INKER / LETTERER
BOB SHAREN / TOM DEFALCO & DANNY FINGEROTH / JIM SHOOTER
COLORIST / EDITORS / EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

IN A PRIVATE ROOM IN NEW YORK'S COLUMBIA PRESBYTERIAN HOSPITAL, FELICIA HARDY SITS RECOVERING FROM WOUNDS SUFFERED IN ASSISTING THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN...

HOW LONG HAVE I BEEN HERE? A MONTH? TWO? IT SEEMS LIKE FOREVER!

I'D GIVE ANYTHING TO GET OUT OF HERE AND STRETCH MY LEGS AGAIN. BUT AFTER THE LAST TIME I WENT FOR A STROLL, THEY TOOK MY COSTUME AWAY AND HID IT.

STILL...NO ONE'S DUE TO CHECK ON ME FOR A WHILE. MAYBE I CAN GET AWAY WITH A LITTLE EXERCISE.

OH...

LET'S WORK THOSE KINKS OUT, FELICIA! S-T-R-E-T-C-H!

...YES!

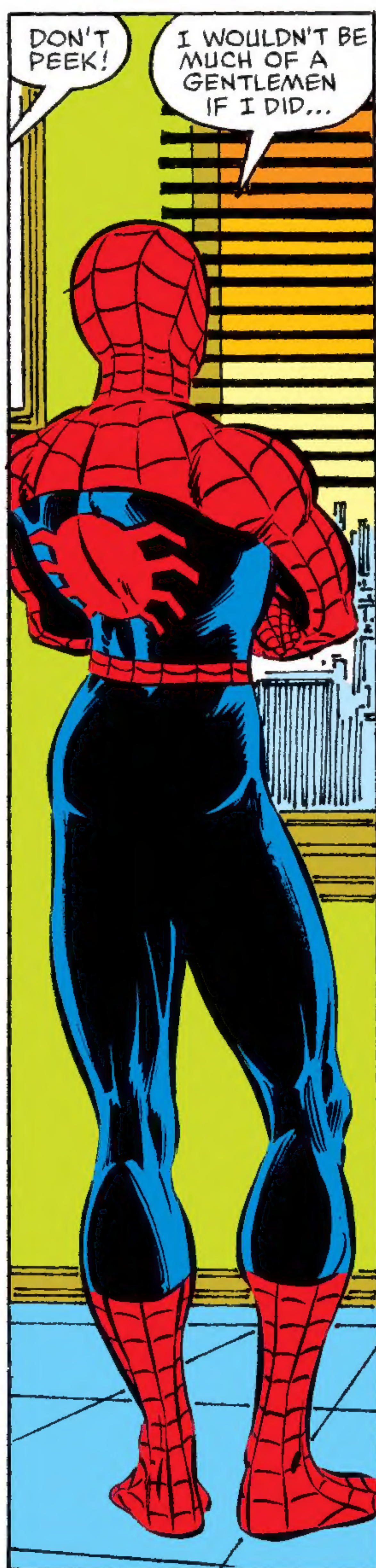
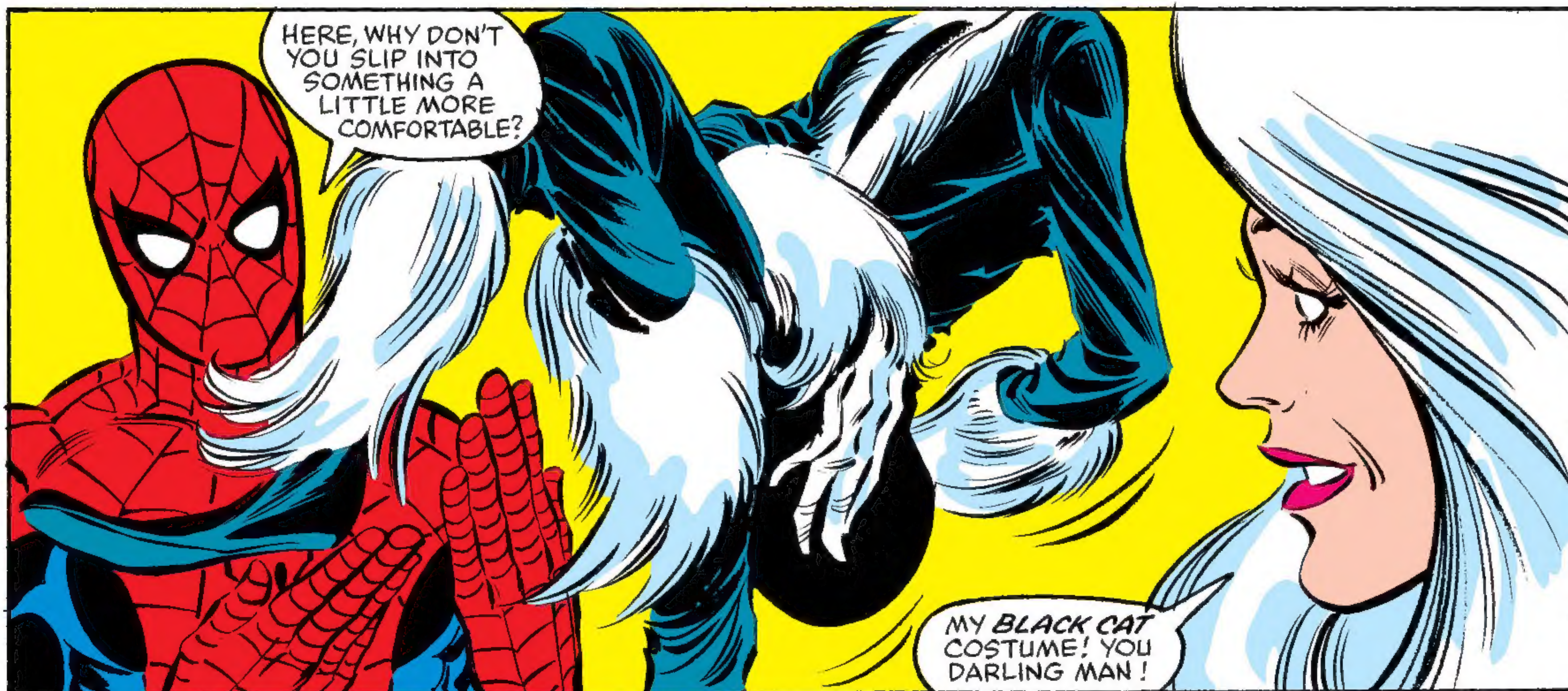
NOT BAD, MY DARLING--

--NOT BAD AT ALL!

SPIDER-MAN... LOVER!

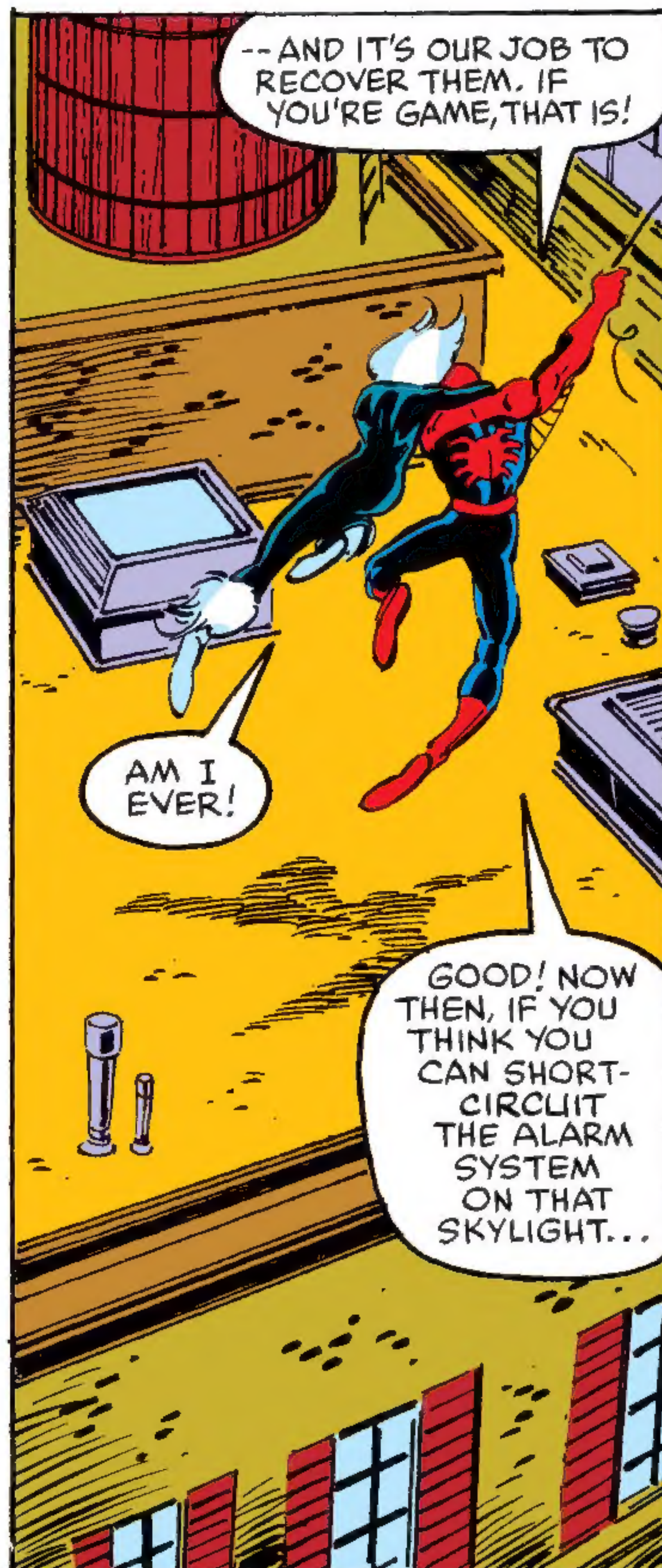
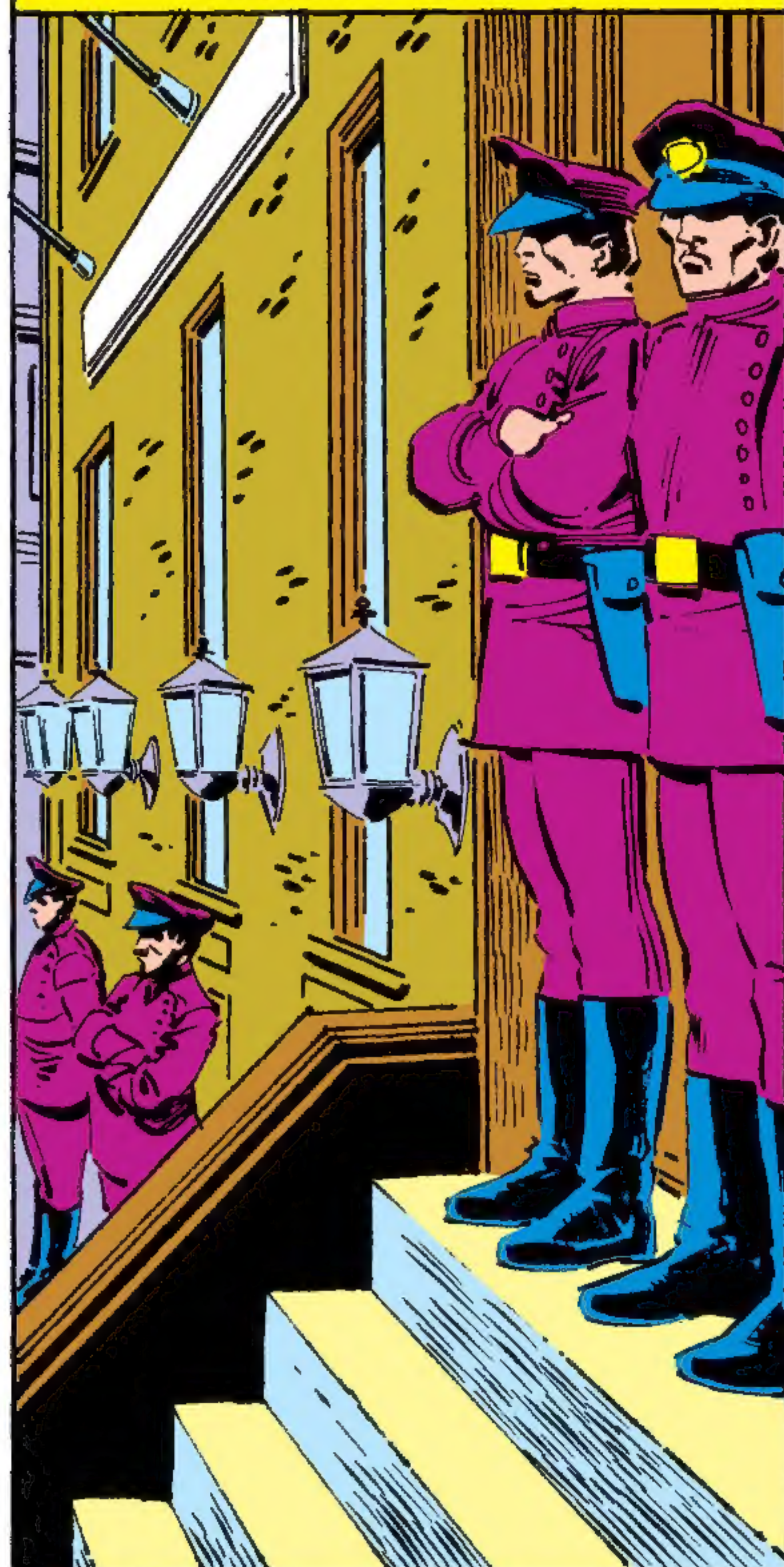
THE ONE AND ONLY! IT LOOKS LIKE YOU'VE MADE BETTER PROGRESS THAN YOUR DOCTORS THOUGHT! MARVELOUS!

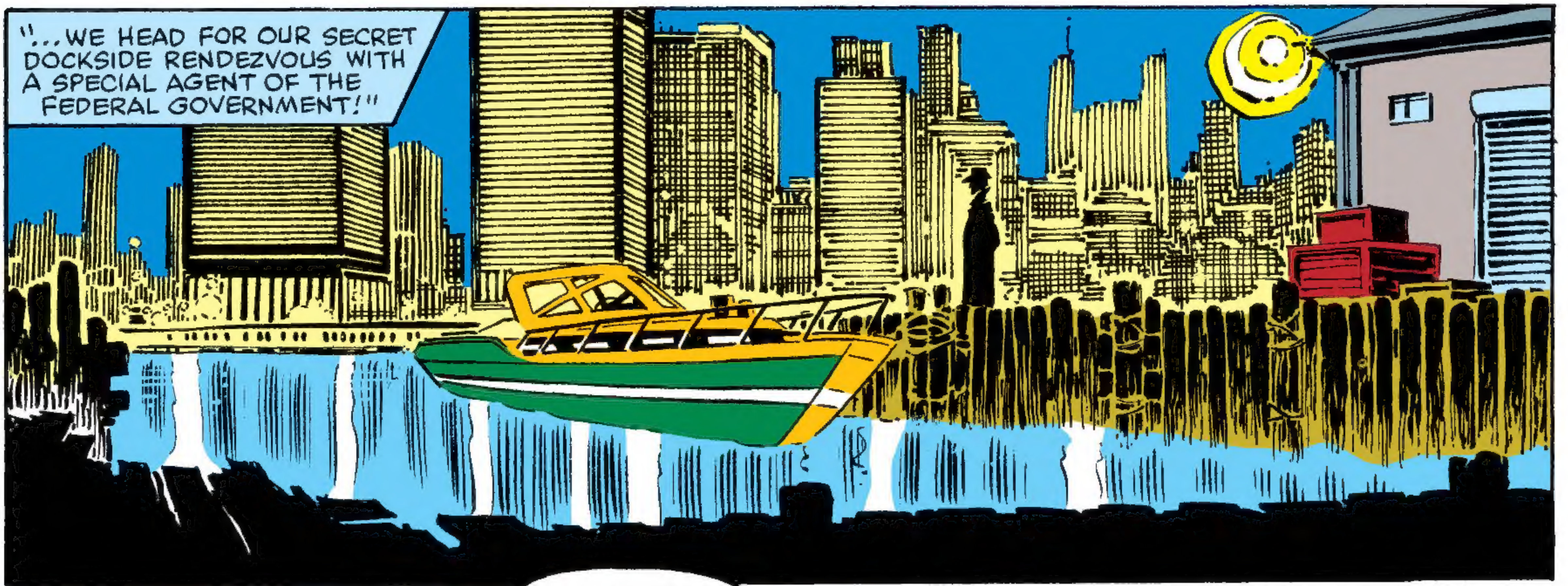
THAT BEING THE CASE, I HAVE A LITTLE PRESENT FOR YOU!

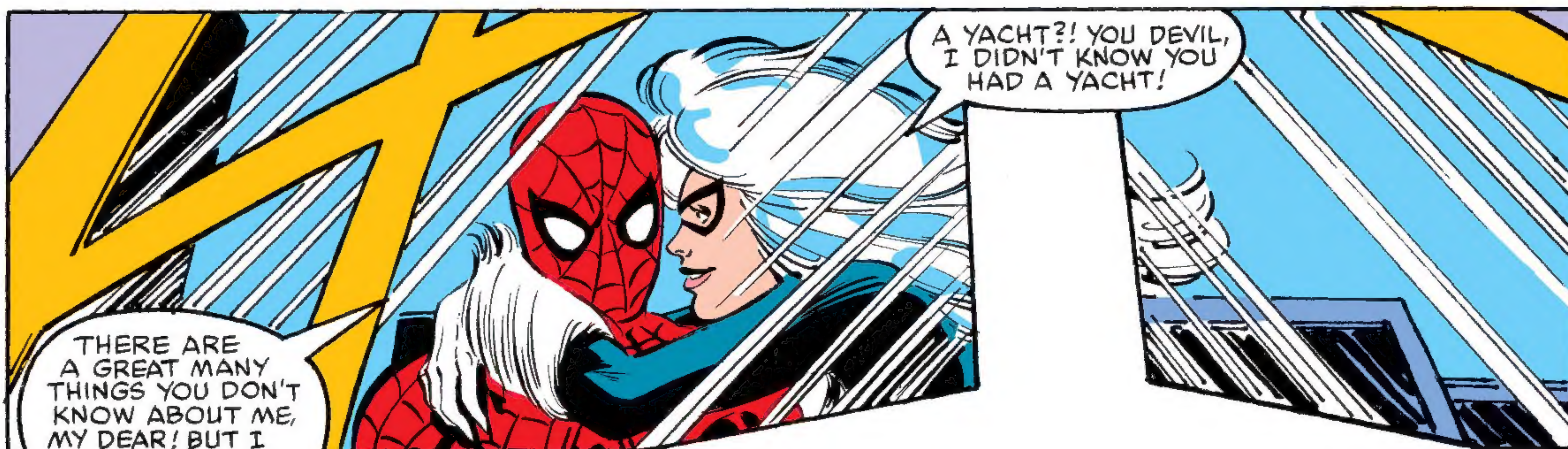
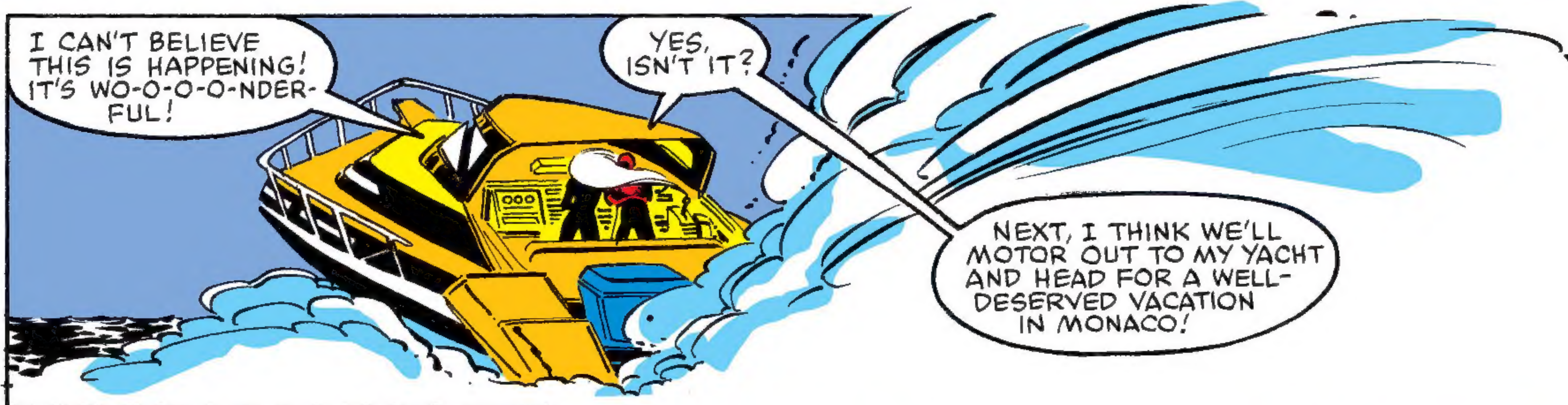
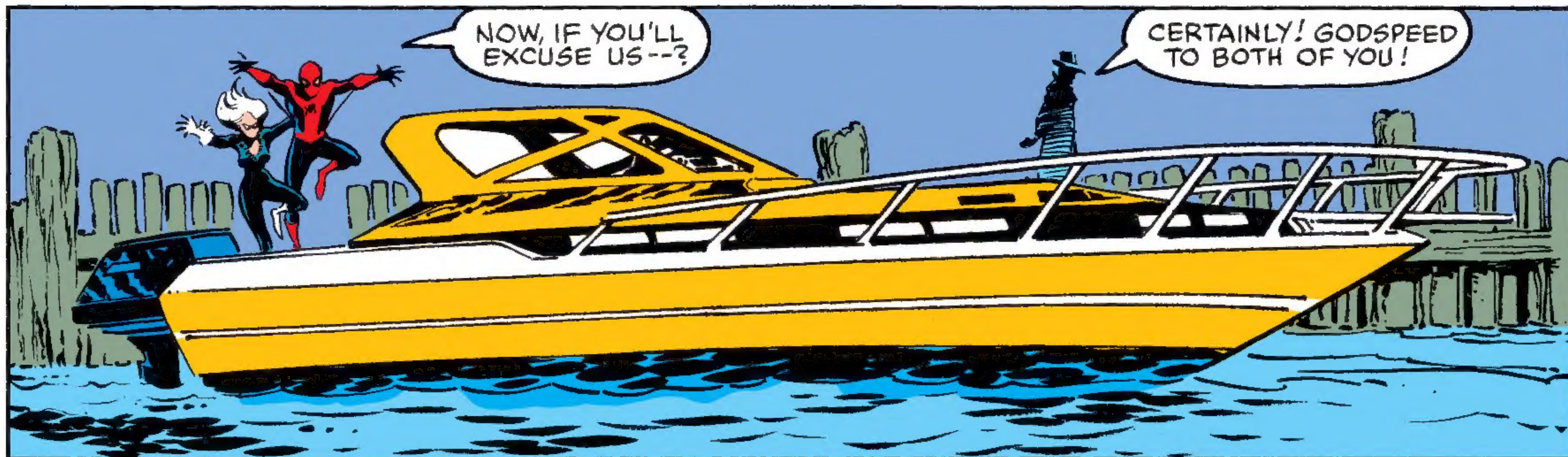


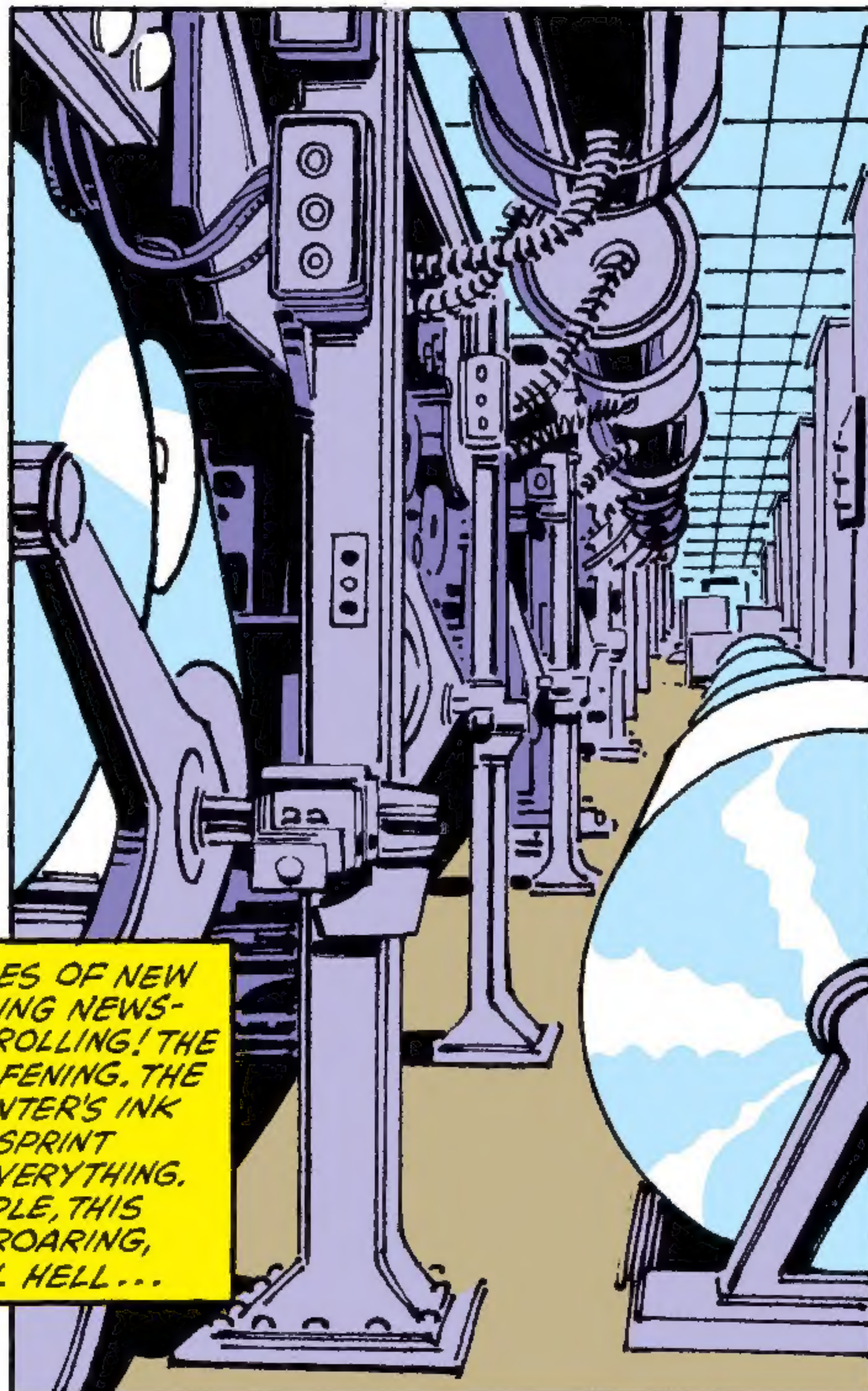
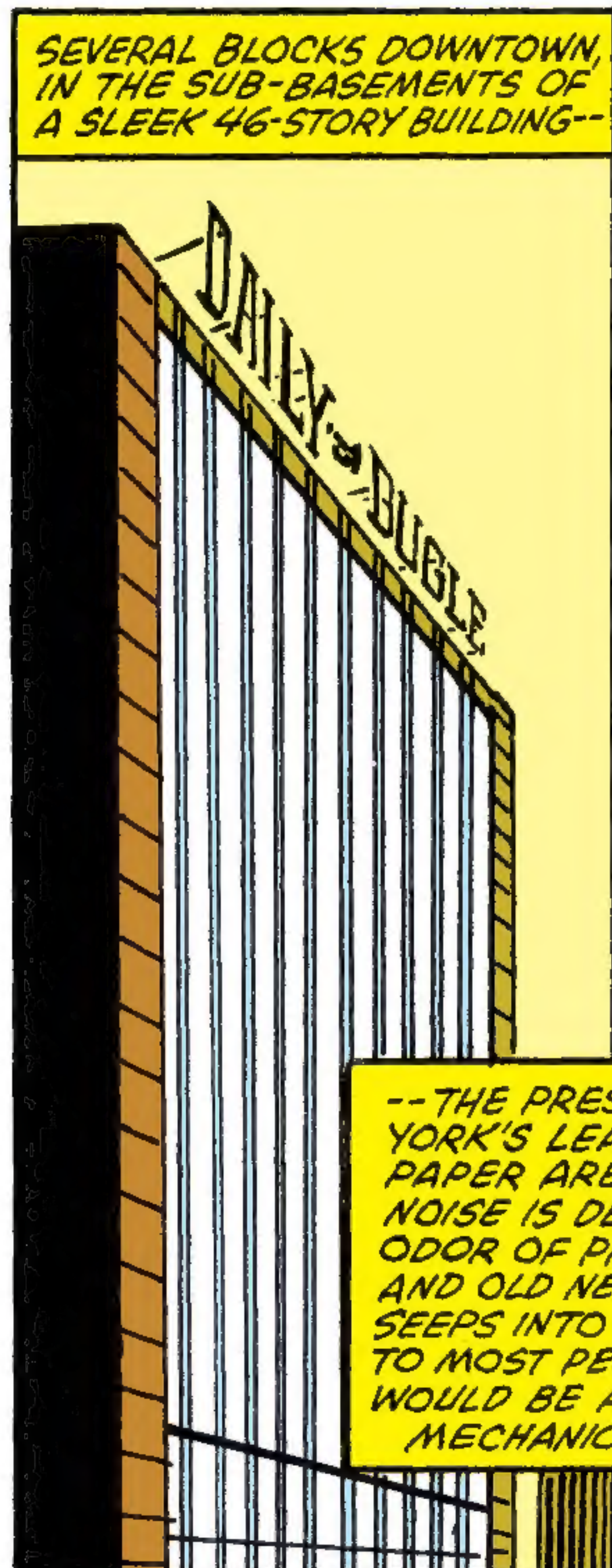
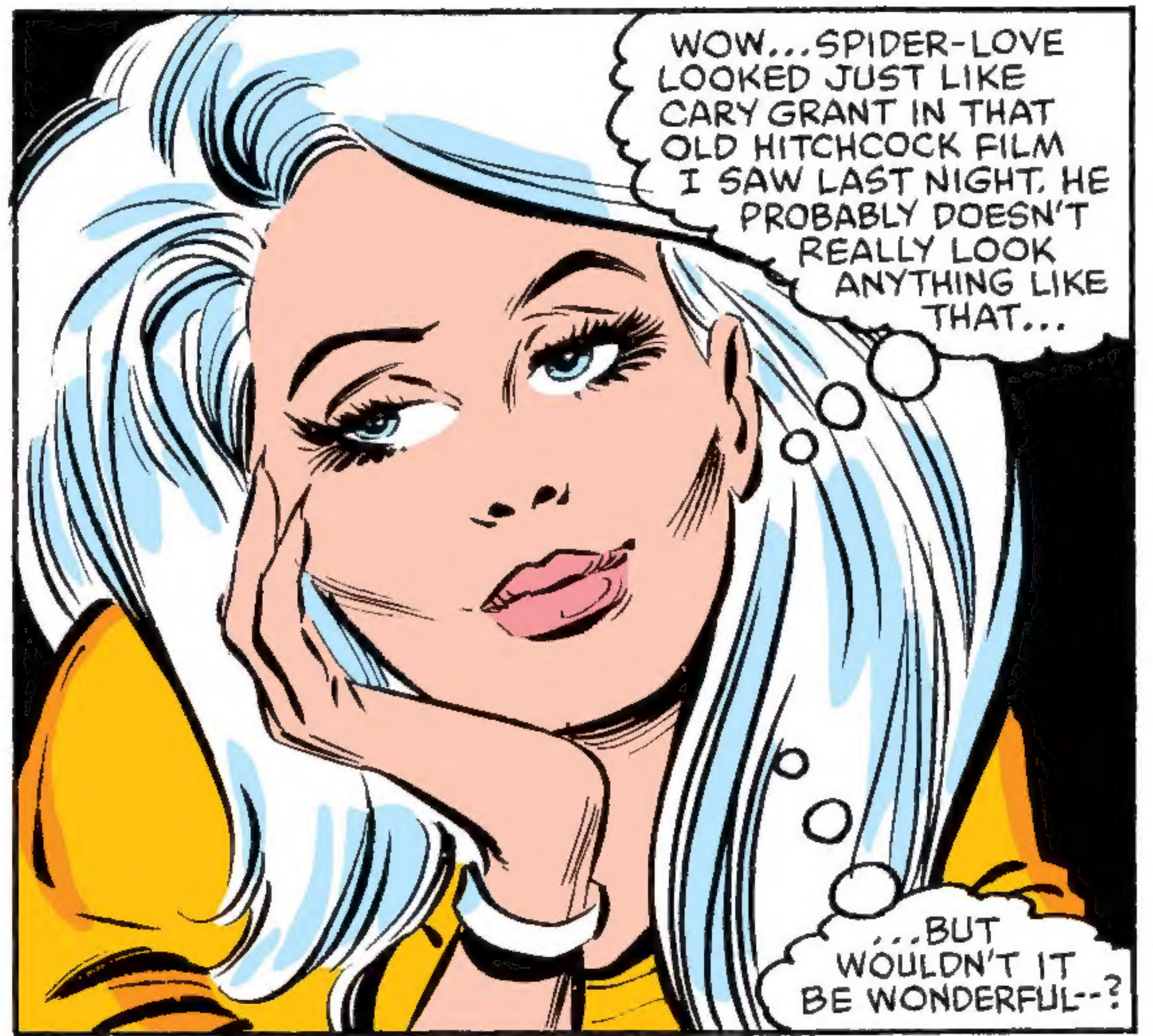
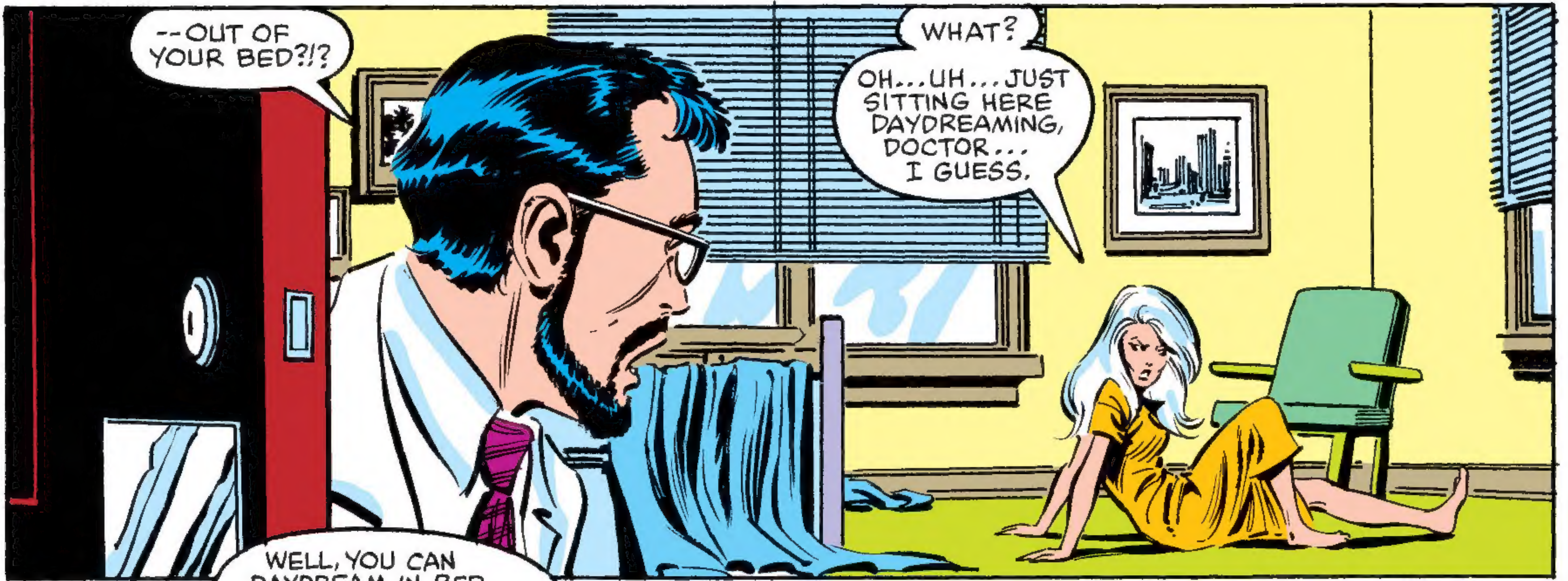


"-- BUT THIS BURGLARY IS IN THE NAME OF FREEDOM! THERE ARE IMPORTANT PAPERS BEING HELD IN A CERTAIN FOREIGN EMBASSY--"

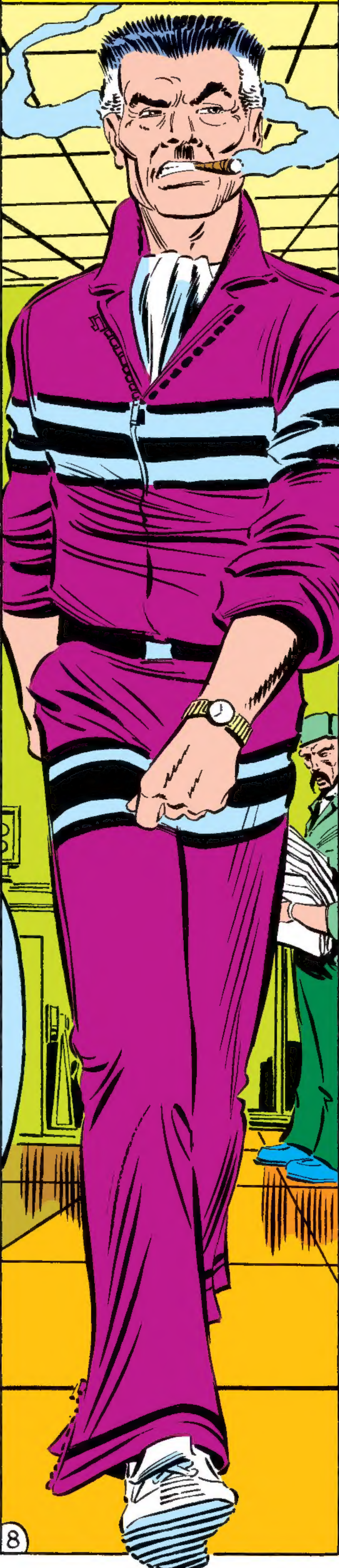




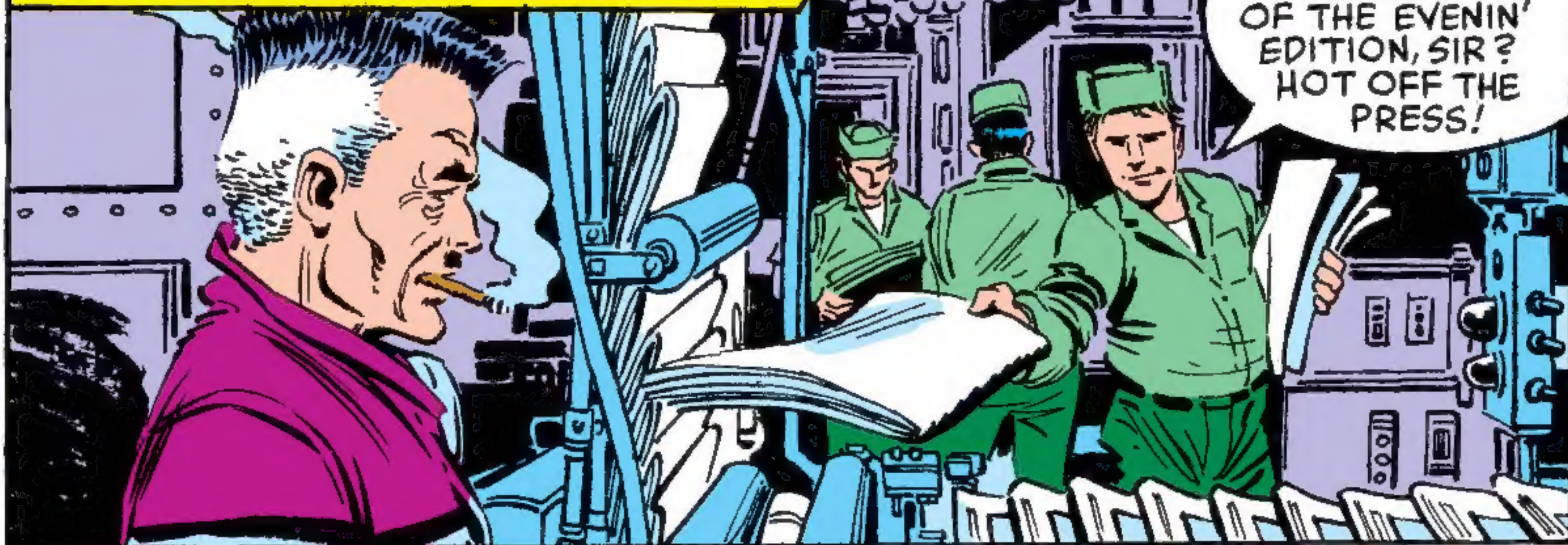




J. JONAH JAMESON...JOURNAL-
IST, PUBLISHER, SELF-MADE MAN.
THE DAILY BUGLE IS HIS BABY.
FOR MANY YEARS IT WAS THE
ONLY LOVE IN HIS LIFE.



HE LIVES TO WATCH ITS PRESSES RUN!

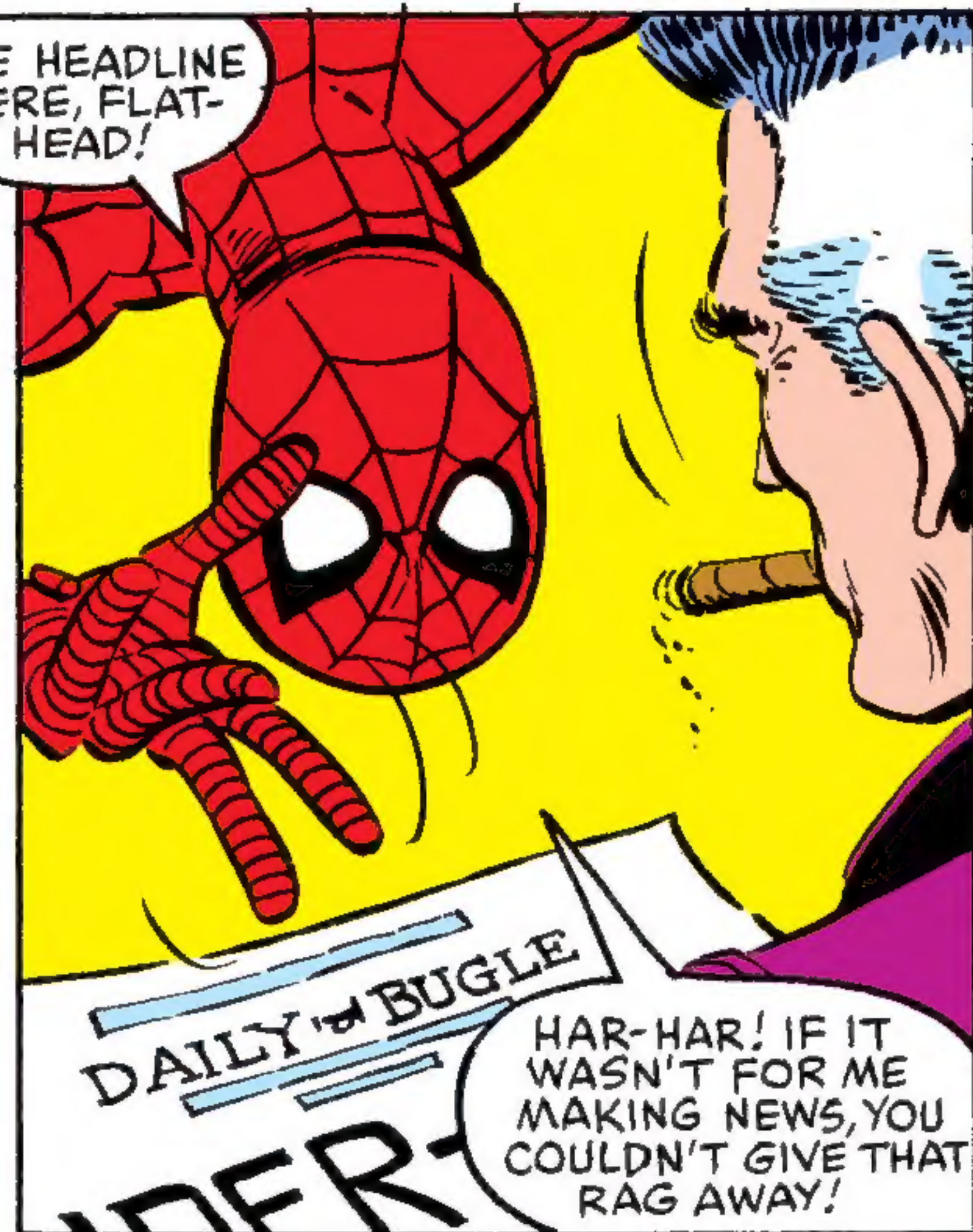


CARE FOR A COPY OF THE EVENIN' EDITION, SIR? HOT OFF THE PRESS!



HMMMMPH!

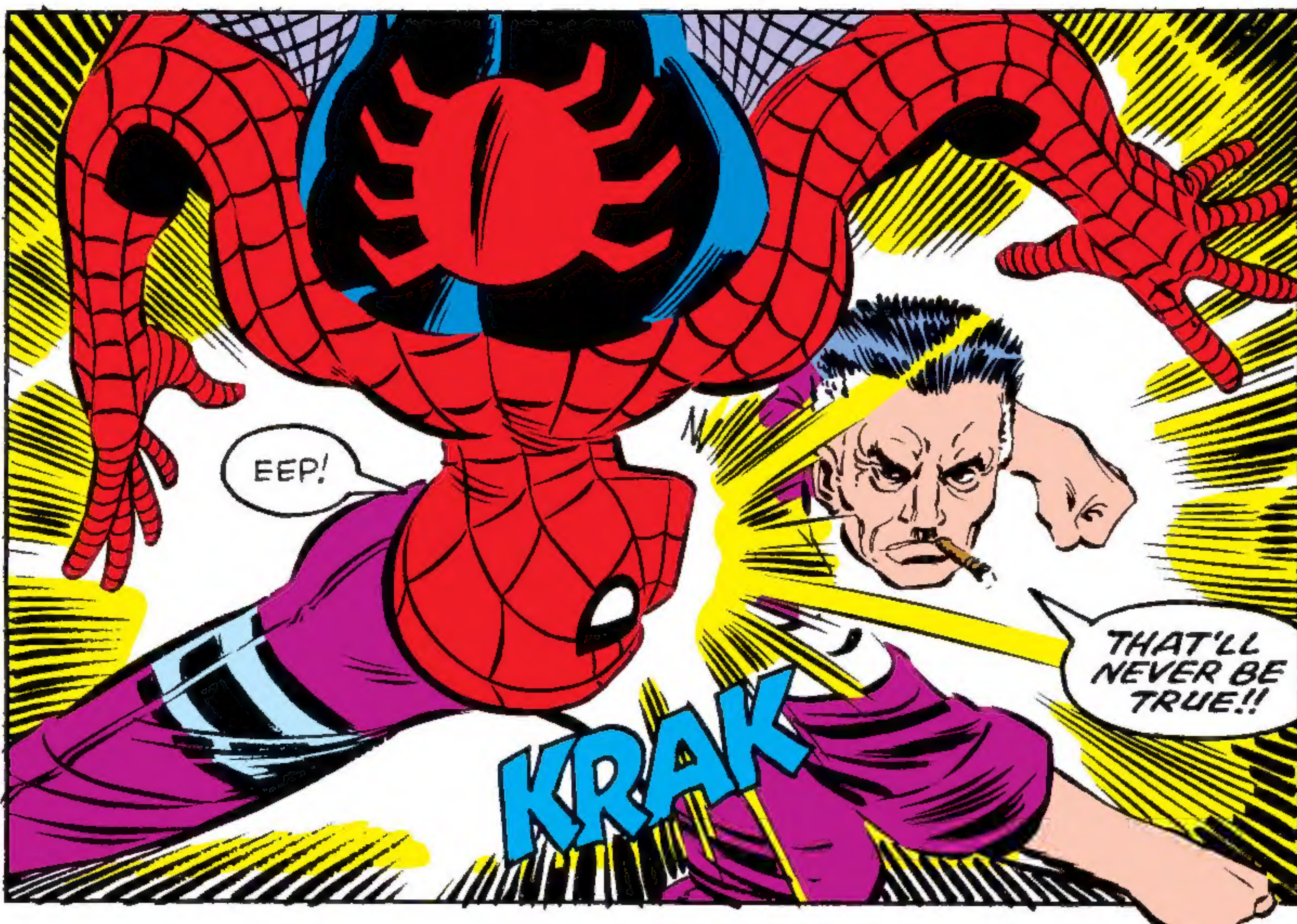
NICE HEADLINE THERE, FLAT-HEAD!



HAR-HAR! IF IT WASN'T FOR ME MAKING NEWS, YOU COULDN'T GIVE THAT RAG AWAY!

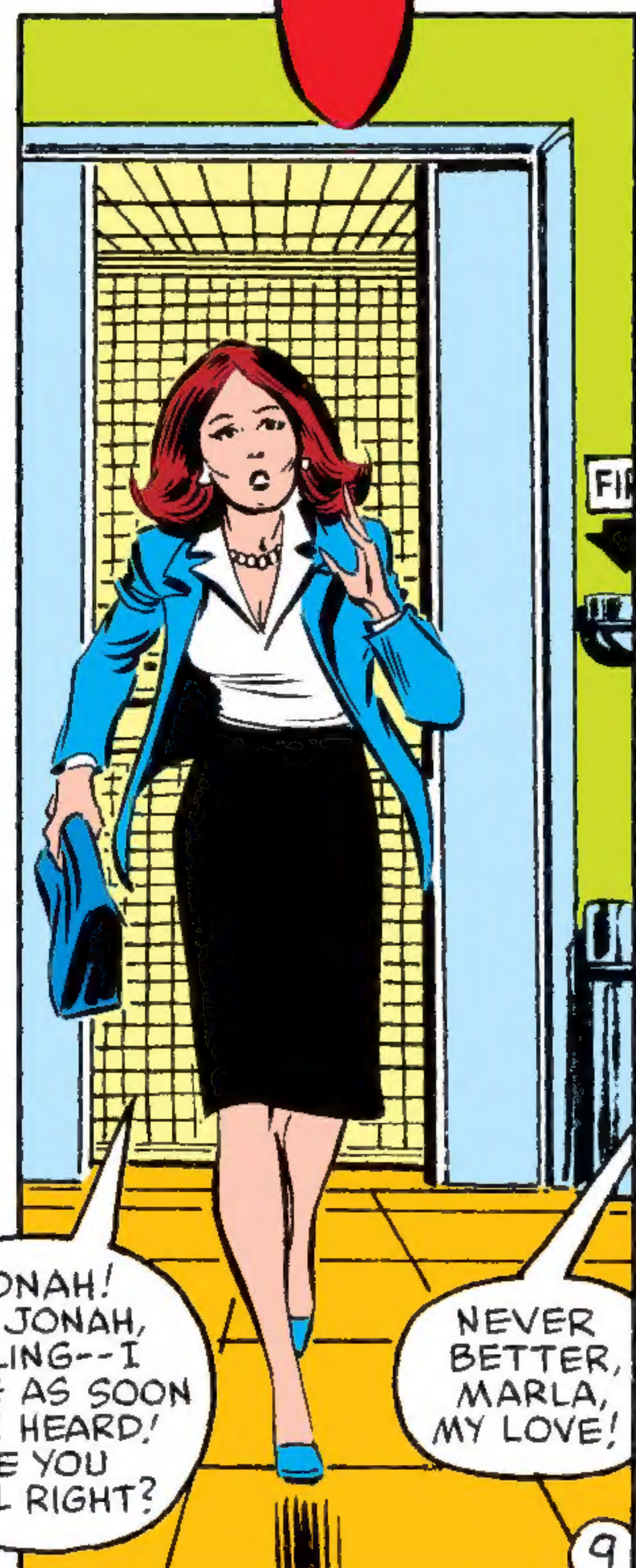
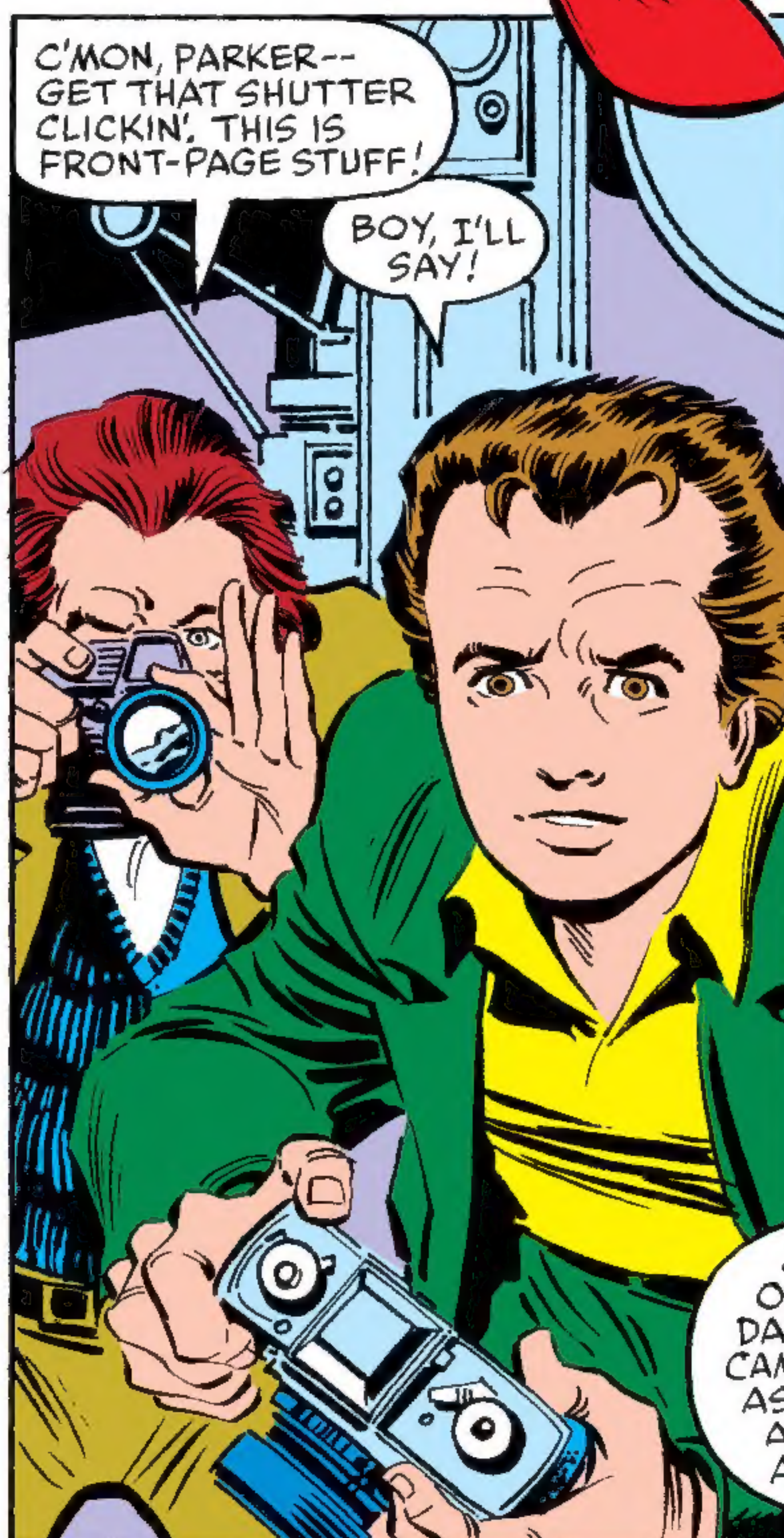
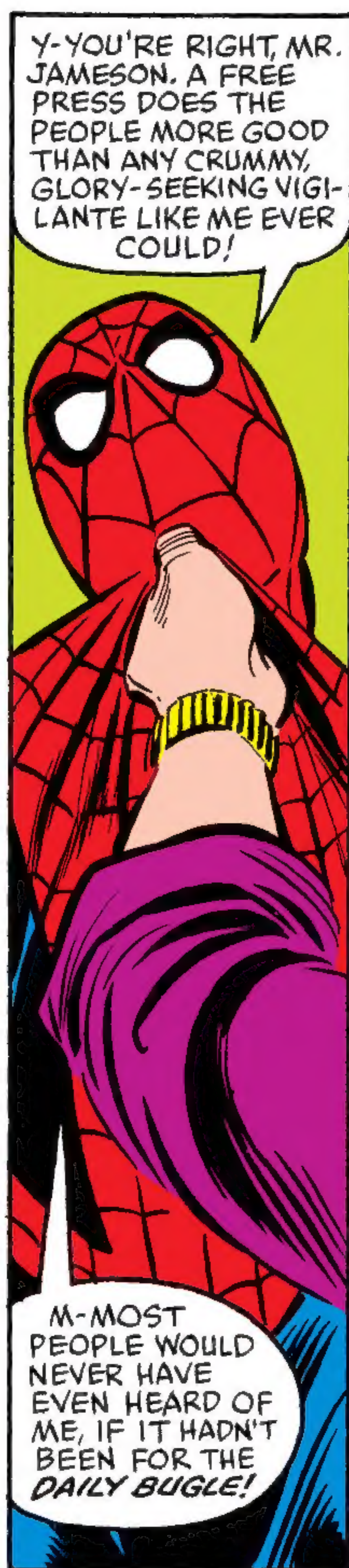


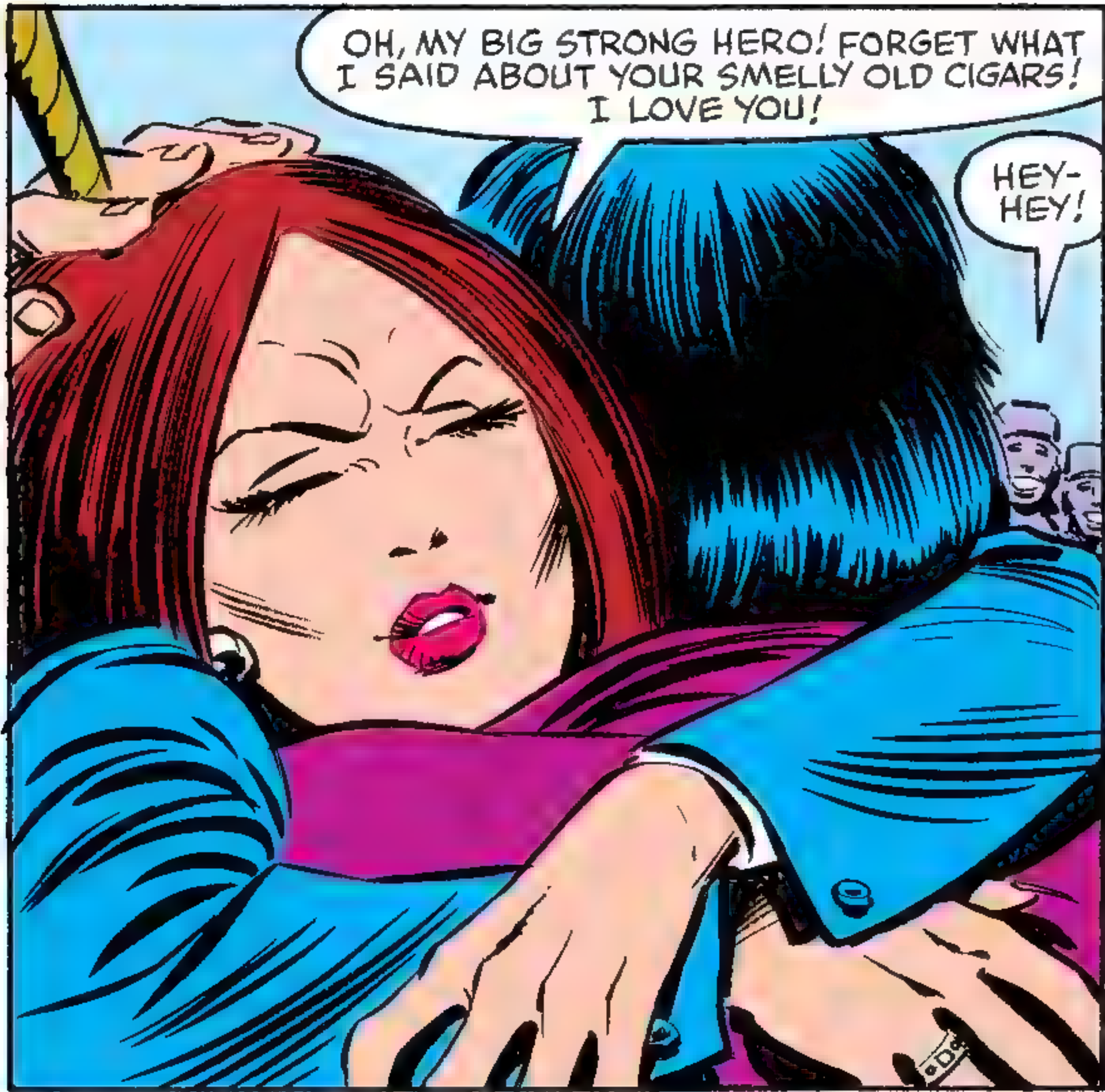
THAT'S ...NOT... TRUE!



EEP!

THAT'LL NEVER BE TRUE!!





OH, MY BIG STRONG HERO! FORGET WHAT I SAID ABOUT YOUR SMELLY OLD CIGARS! I LOVE YOU!

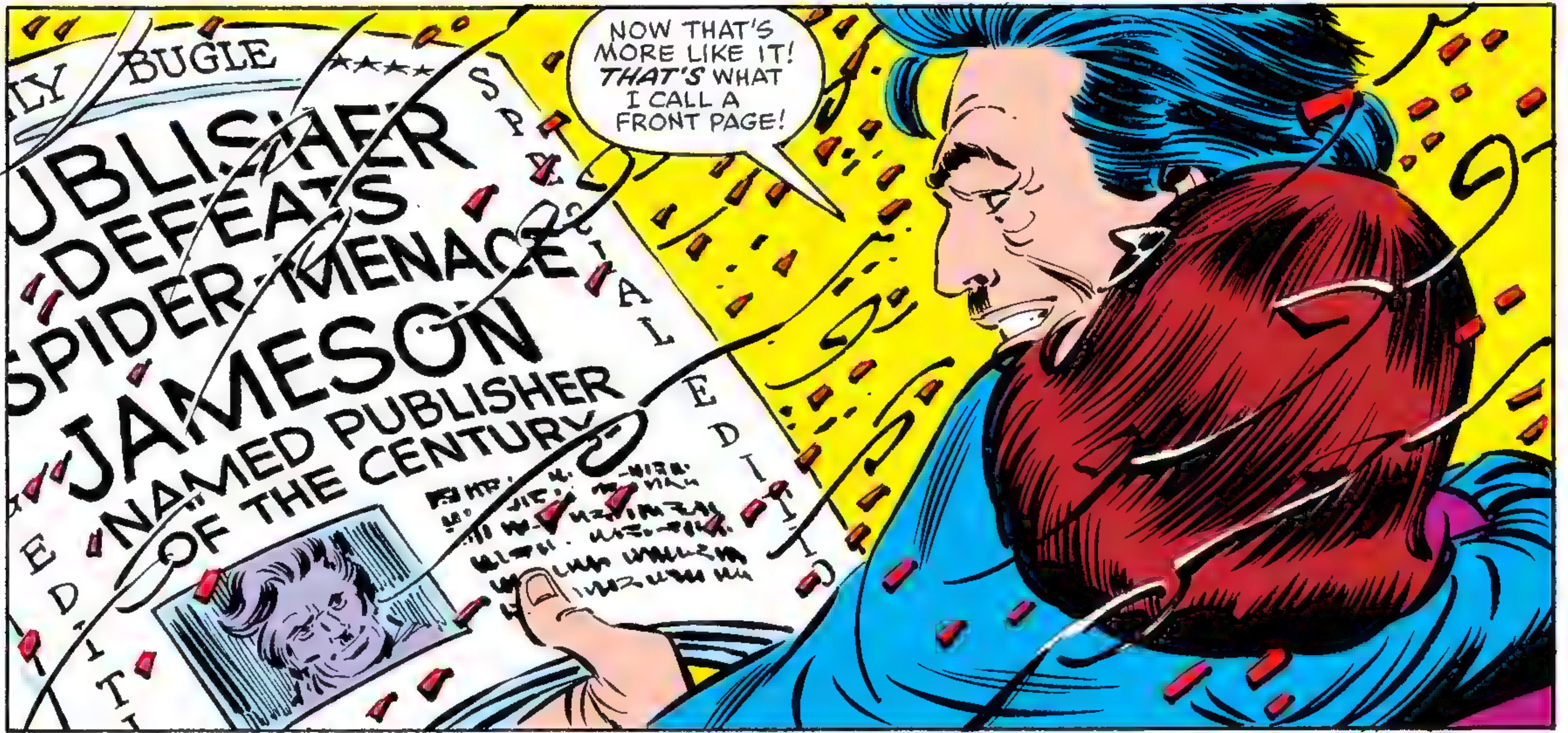
HEY-HEY!



HERE, MR. JAMESON--MAYBE YOU AND DR. MADISON THERE WOULD LIKE TO SEE THE NEW EVENING EDITION!

IS IT GOOD NEWS?

THE BEST, BOSS! THE BEST!

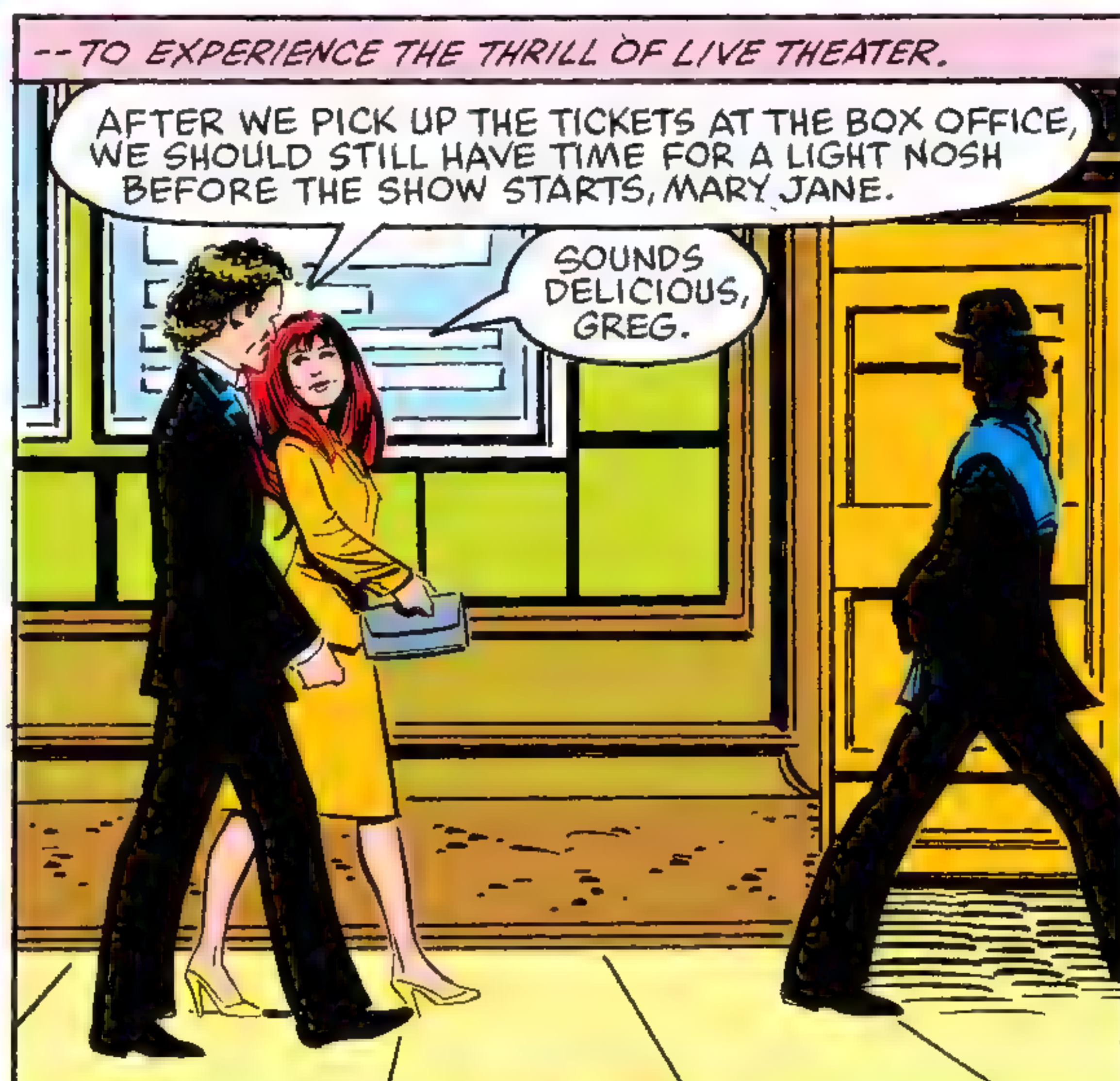
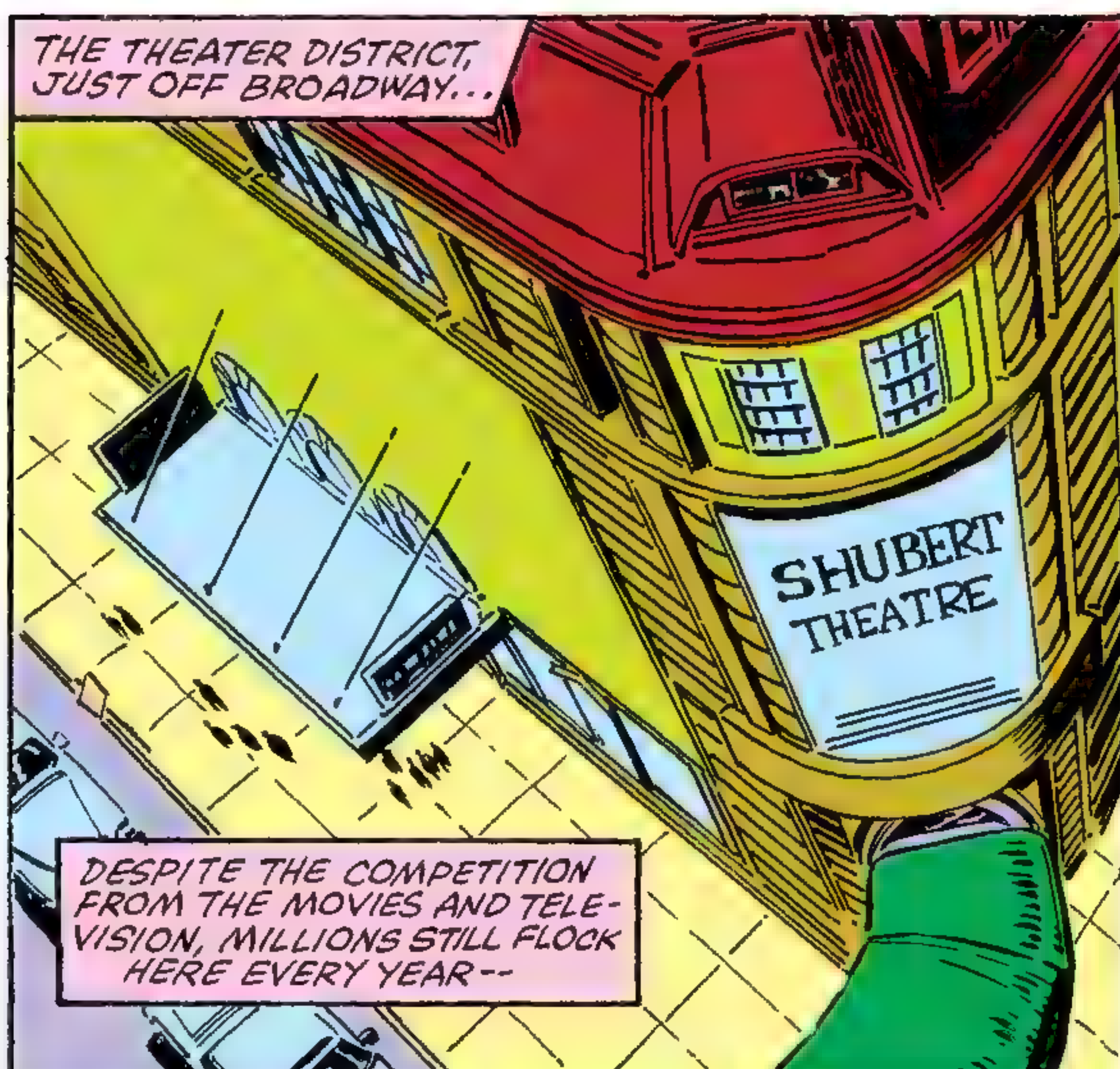
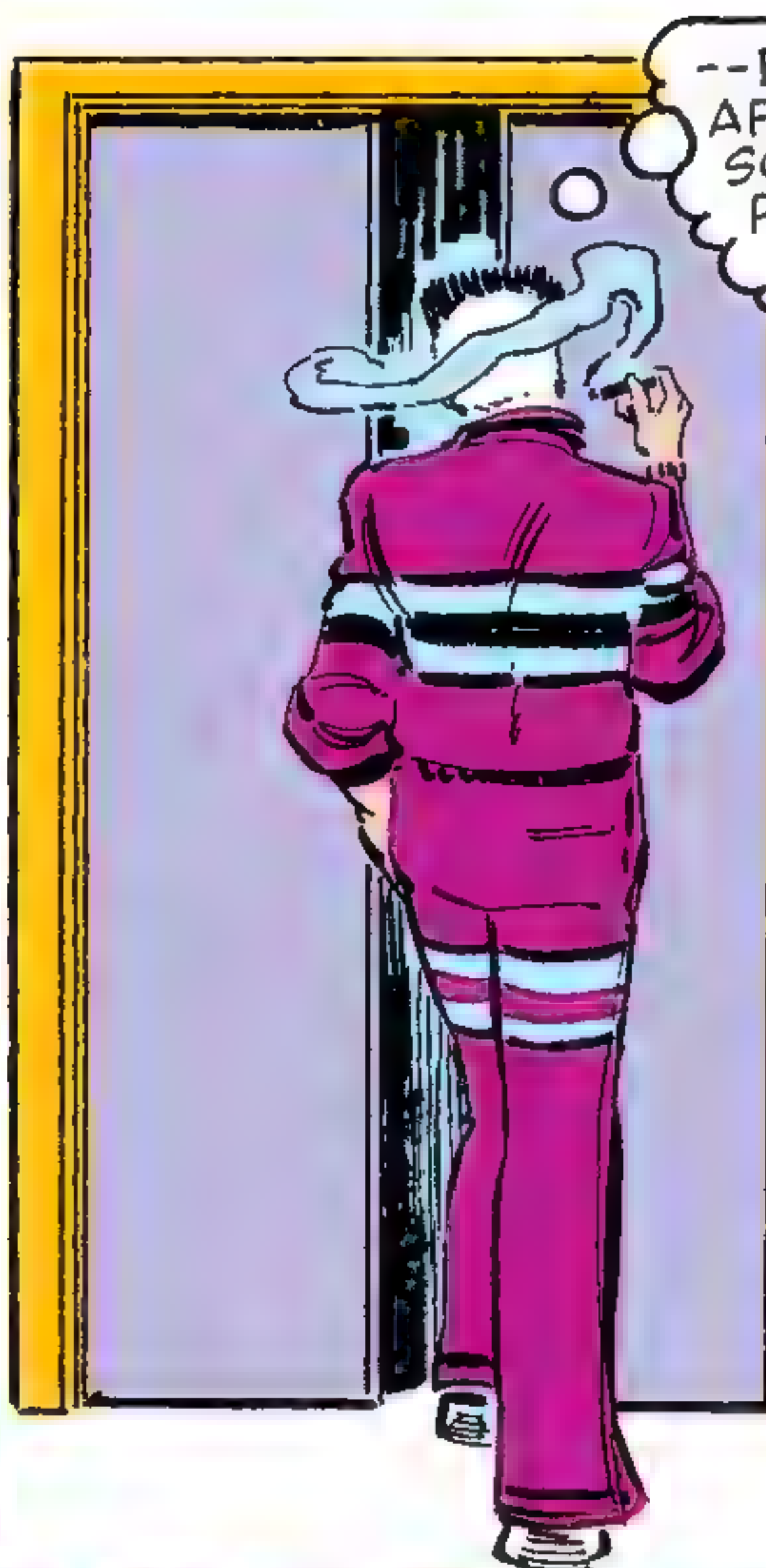


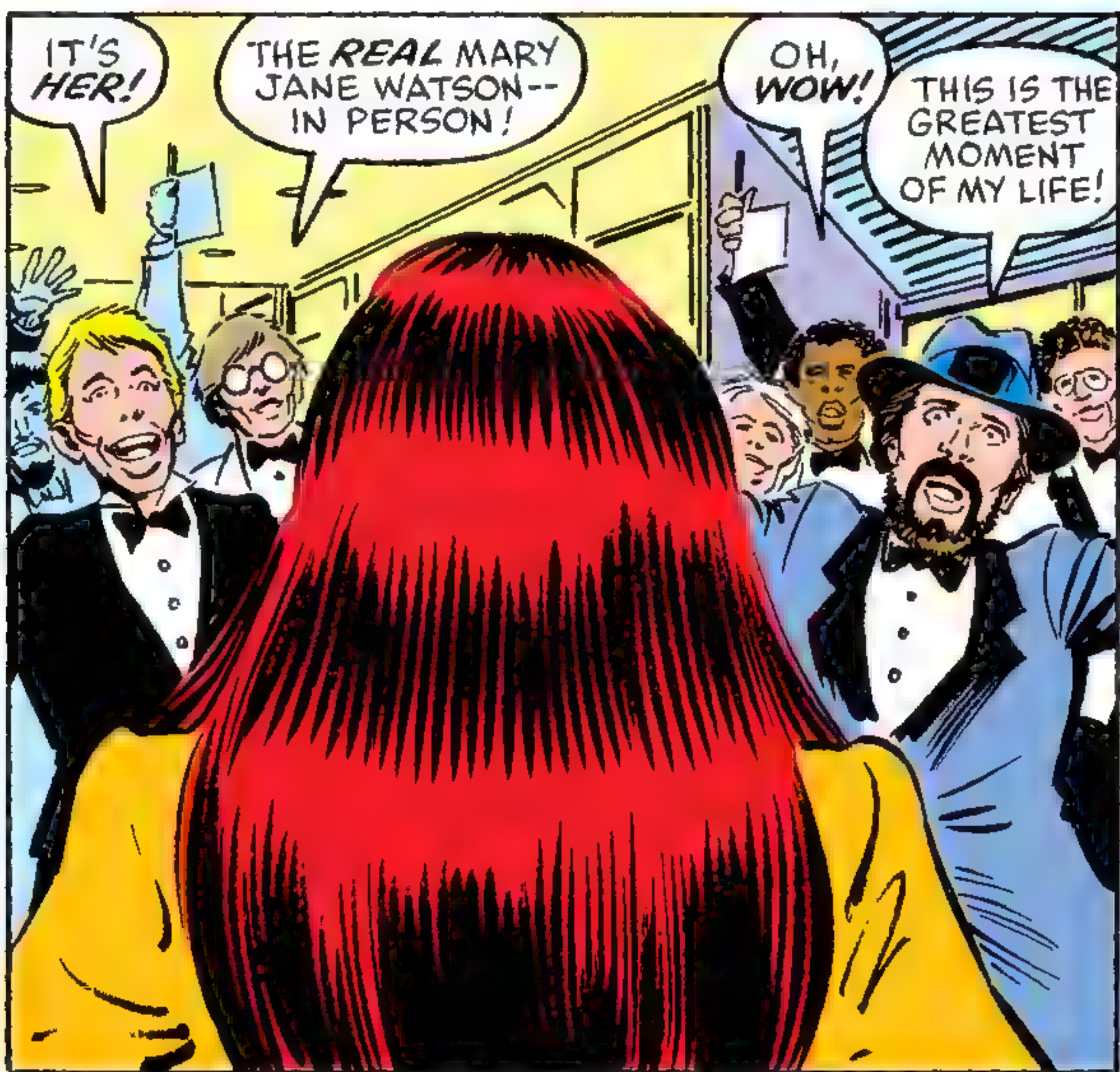
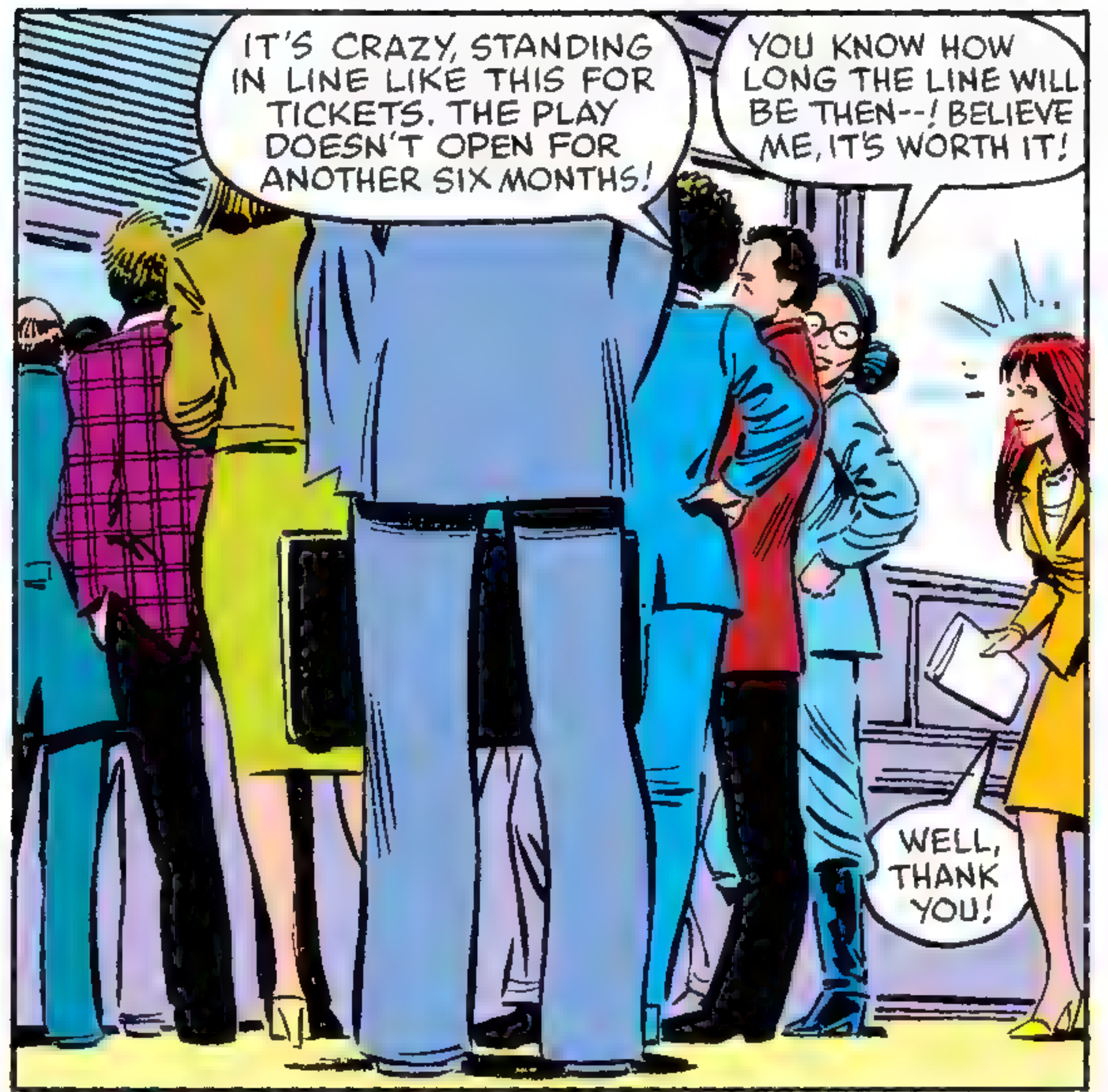
NOW THAT'S MORE LIKE IT! THAT'S WHAT I CALL A FRONT PAGE!

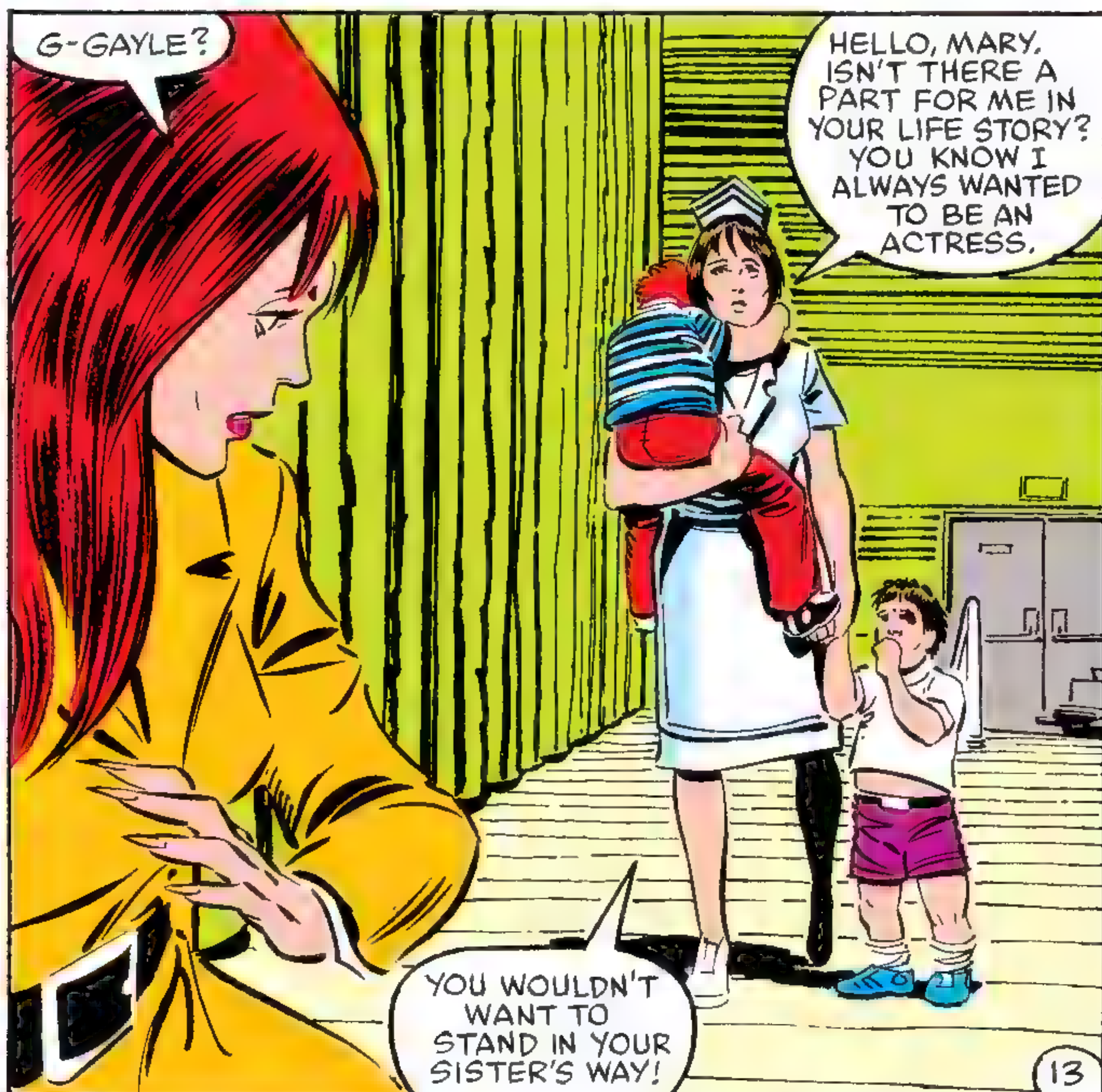


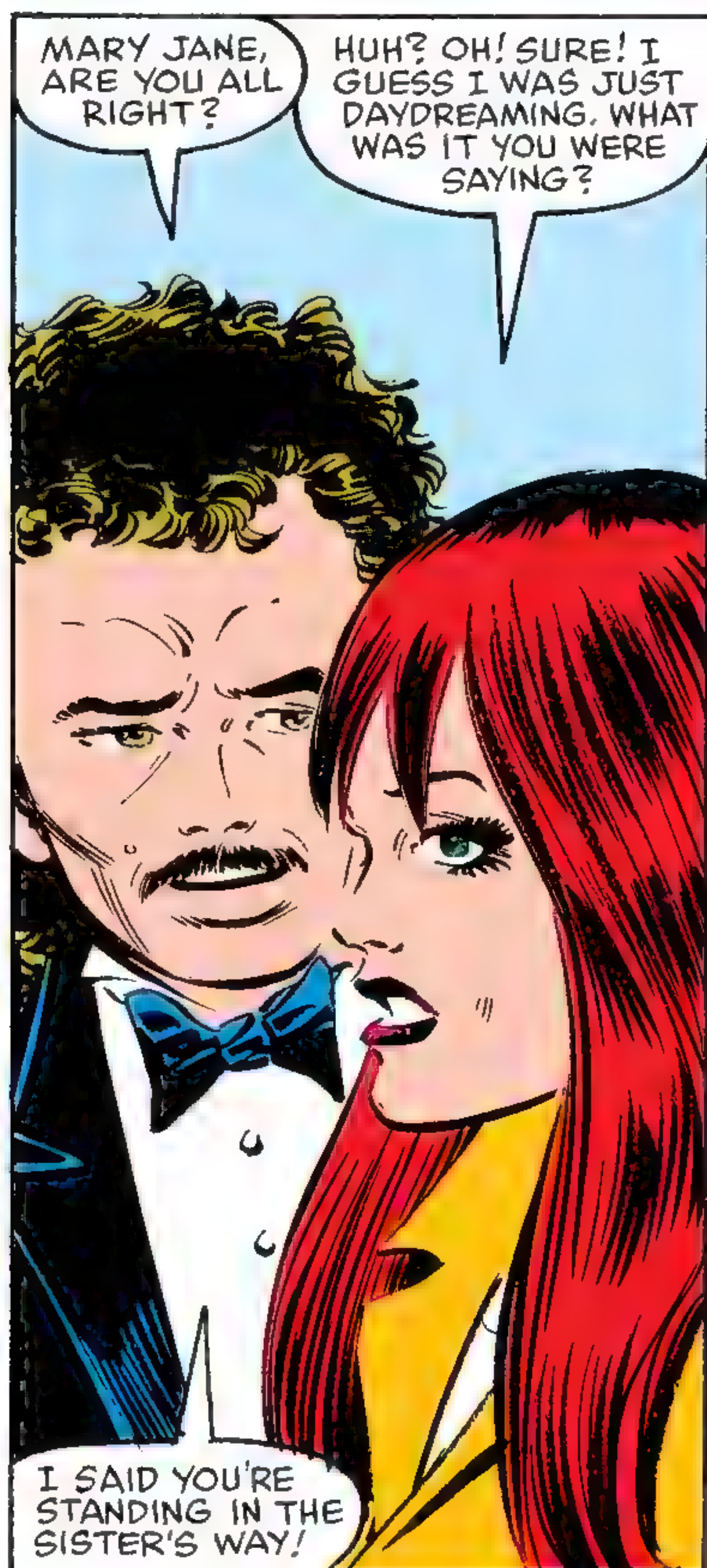
A SHAME IT CAN'T BE THAT WAY.

BUT THE BUGLE PRINTS THE NEWS ...NOT FICTION.





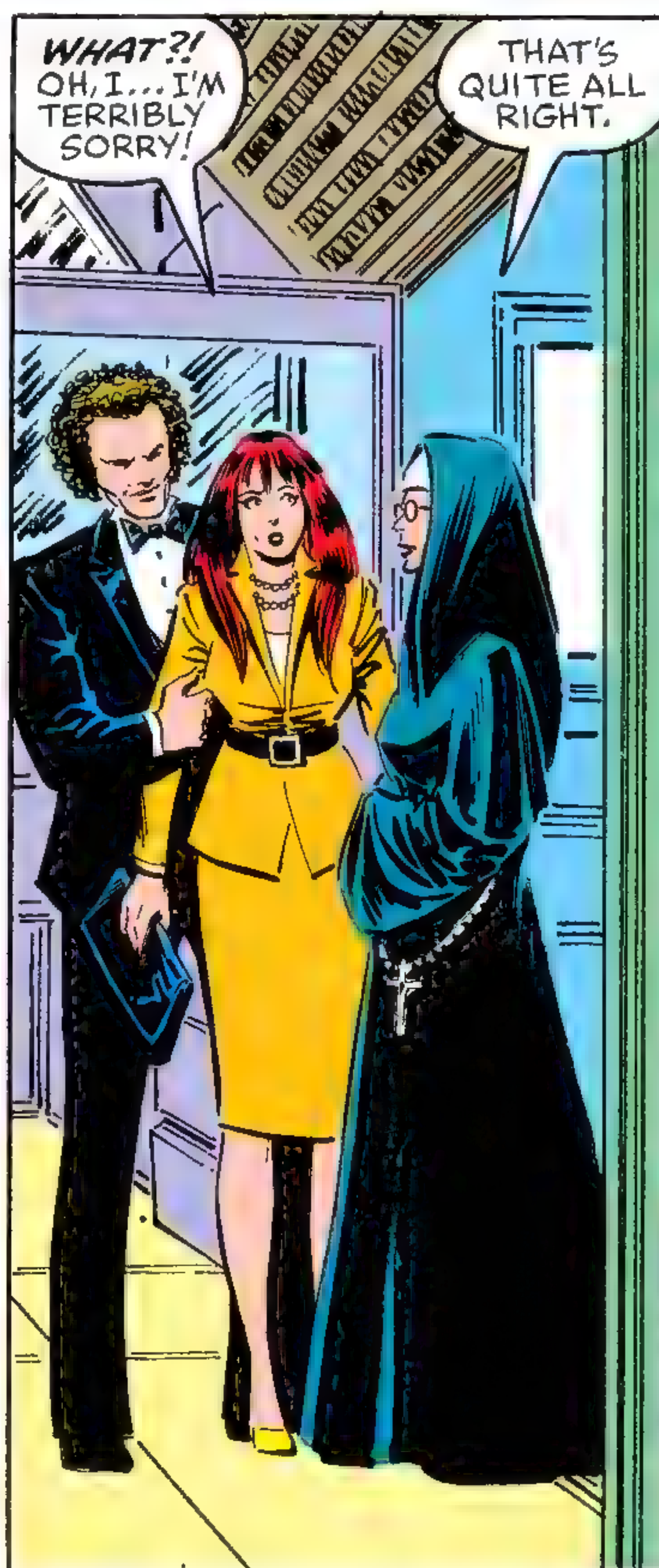




MARY JANE, ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?

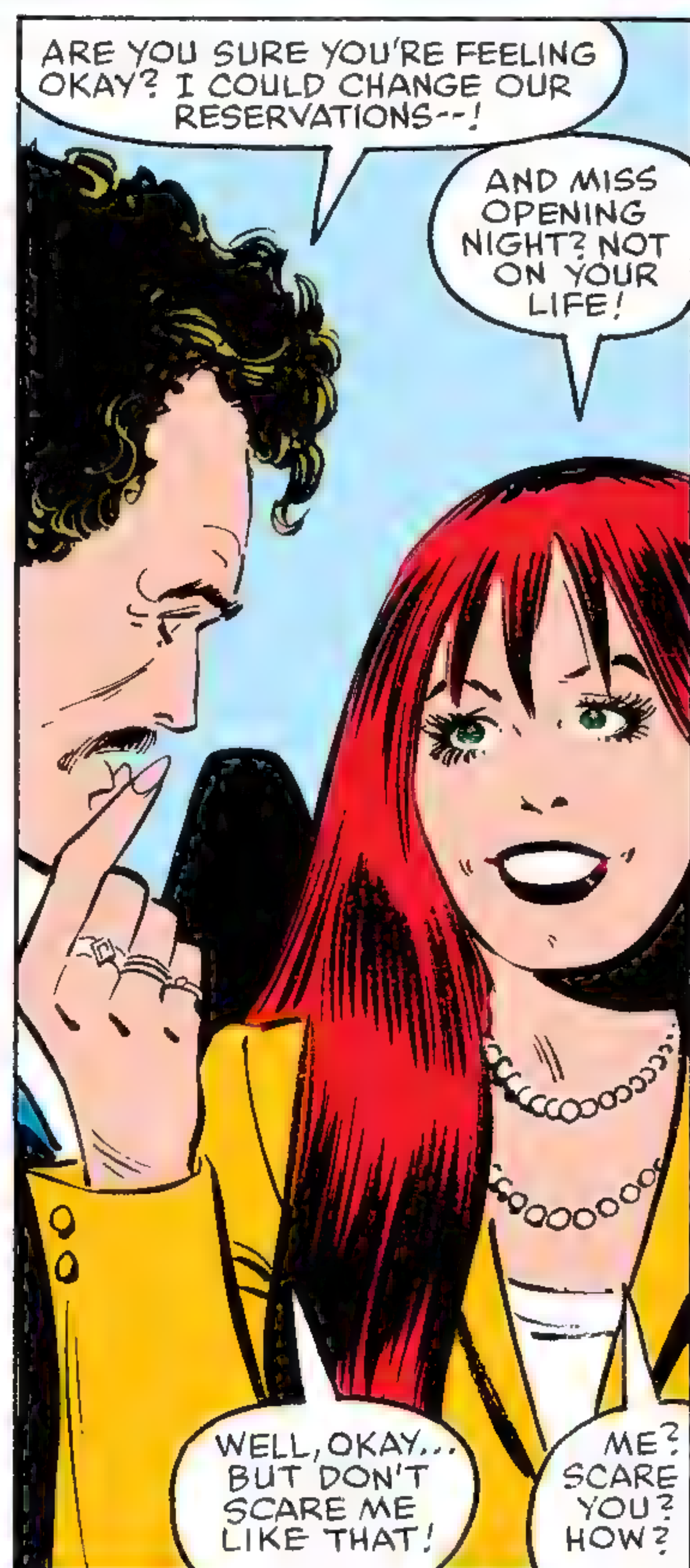
HUH? OH! SURE! I GUESS I WAS JUST DAYDREAMING. WHAT WAS IT YOU WERE SAYING?

I SAID YOU'RE STANDING IN THE SISTER'S WAY!



WHAT?! OH, I... I'M TERRIBLY SORRY!

THAT'S QUITE ALL RIGHT.



ARE YOU SURE YOU'RE FEELING OKAY? I COULD CHANGE OUR RESERVATIONS--!

AND MISS OPENING NIGHT? NOT ON YOUR LIFE!

WELL, OKAY... BUT DON'T SCARE ME LIKE THAT!

ME? SCARE YOU? HOW?



YOU SHOULD HAVE SEEN THE LOOK ON YOUR FACE! YOU WERE SO PALE, I THOUGHT YOU'D SEEN A GHOST OR SOMETHING!

DON'T BE SILLY! THERE'S NO SUCH THING AS GHOSTS! LIKE MY AUNT ANNA ALWAYS SAYS, "YOU HAVE NOTHING TO FEAR FROM THE DEAD, CHILD..."

"... ONLY FROM THE LIVING."

FARTHER UPTOWN,
AT 890 FIFTH AVENUE,
SITS A THREE
STORY MANSION
WHICH IS HEAD-
QUARTERS AND
REFUGE FOR THE
PEACE-KEEPING
FORCE KNOWN AS
THE AVENGERS!

IT IS A SUPER-TEAM WHICH
DOES NOT INCLUDE THE
SERVICES OF THE AMAZING
SPIDER-MAN!

NOT
YET.*

I JUST
DON'T
KNOW.

THERE SEEM TO BE
AS MANY DRAW-
BACKS TO BEING
AN AVENGER AS
THERE ARE AD-
VANTAGES.

AND I
NEVER
WAS
MUCH
OF A
TEAM
PLAYER.

BUT IF I REALLY
FOUGHT TO BE-
COME AN AVENGER,
I COULD BE MORE
COMFORTABLE FI-
NANCIALLY...AND
EVEN PEOPLE LIKE
JONAH JAMESON
WOULD HAVE TO GIVE
ME A LITTLE RESPECT!

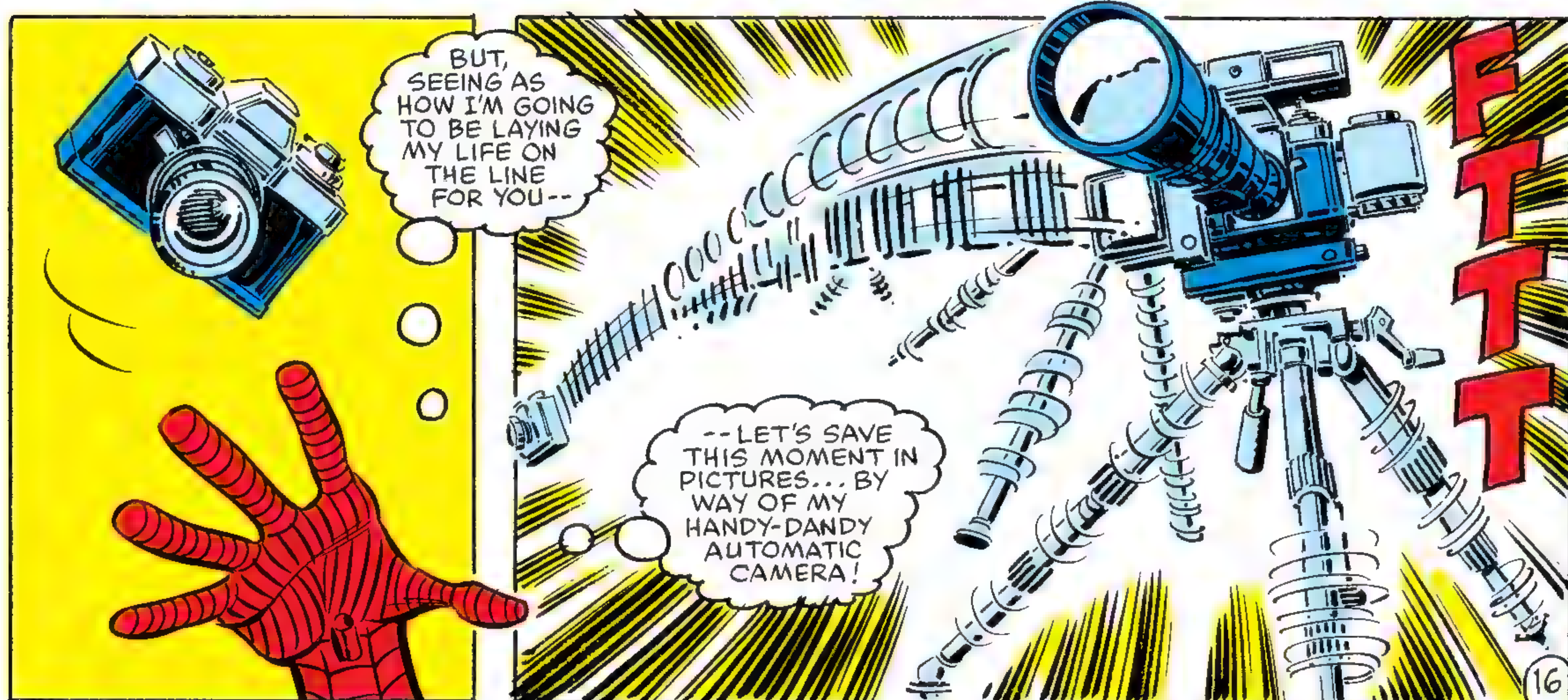
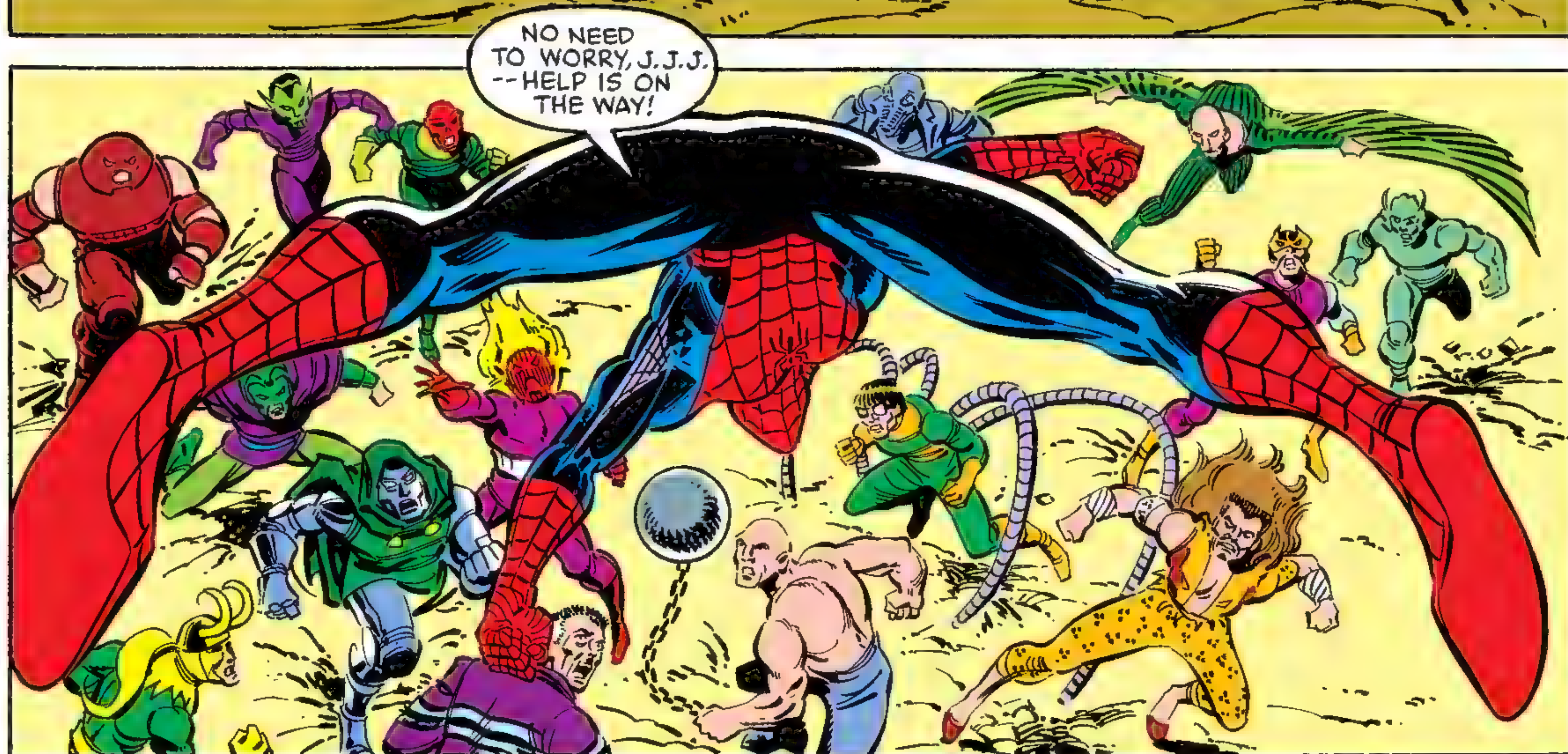
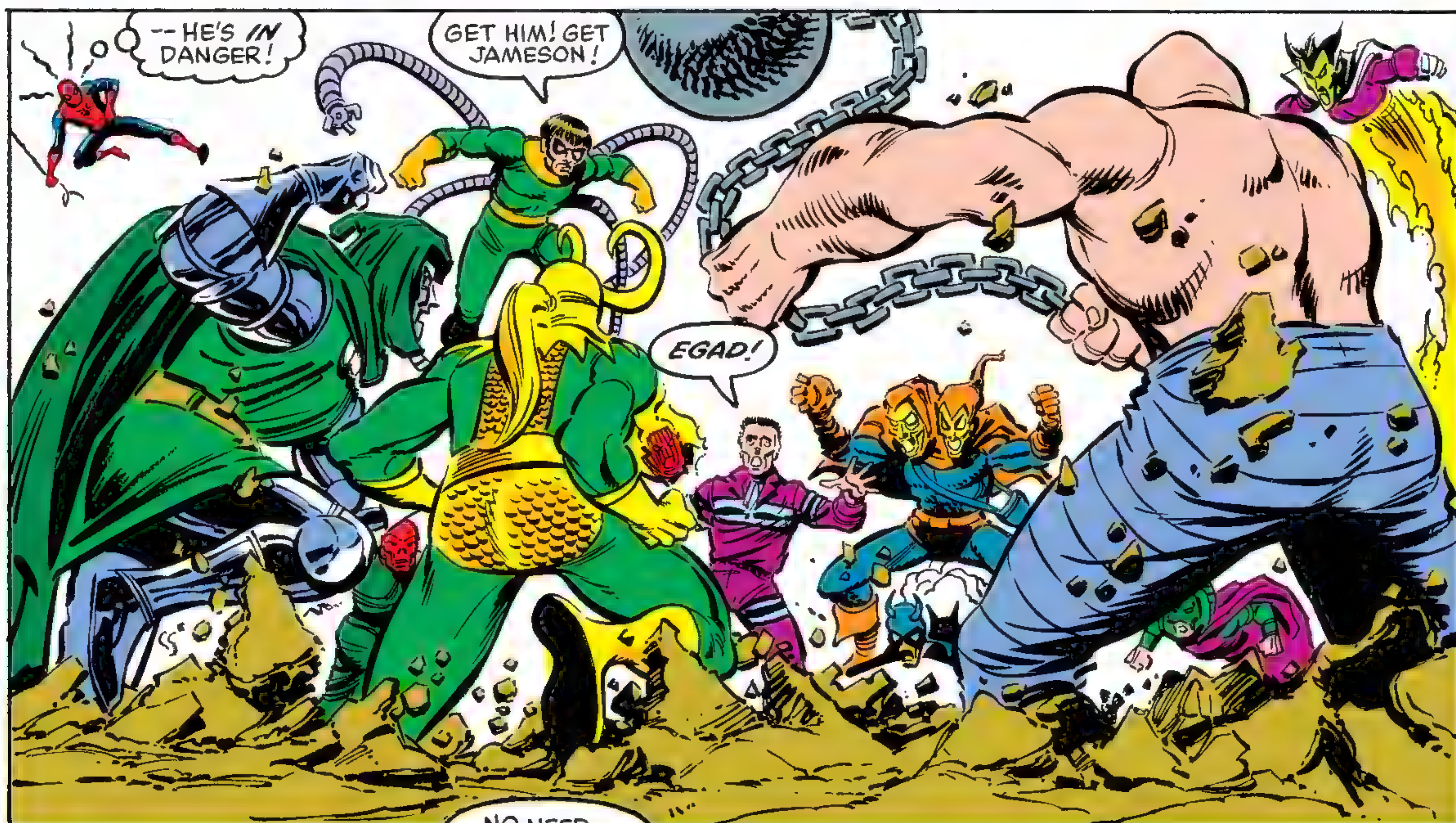
SPEAK OF THE DEVIL...
THERE'S OL' J.J.J. JOGGING
UP PARK AVENUE.

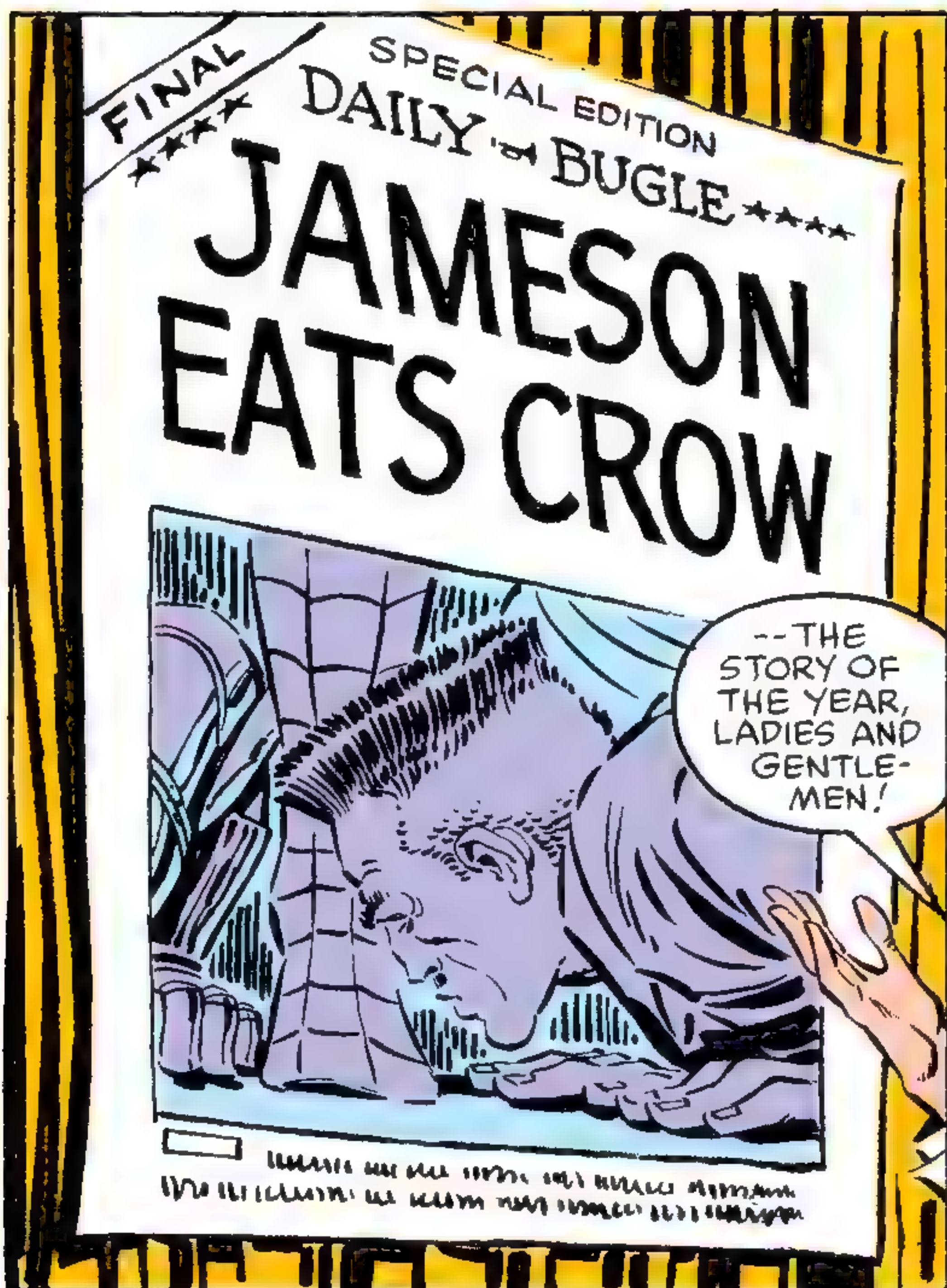
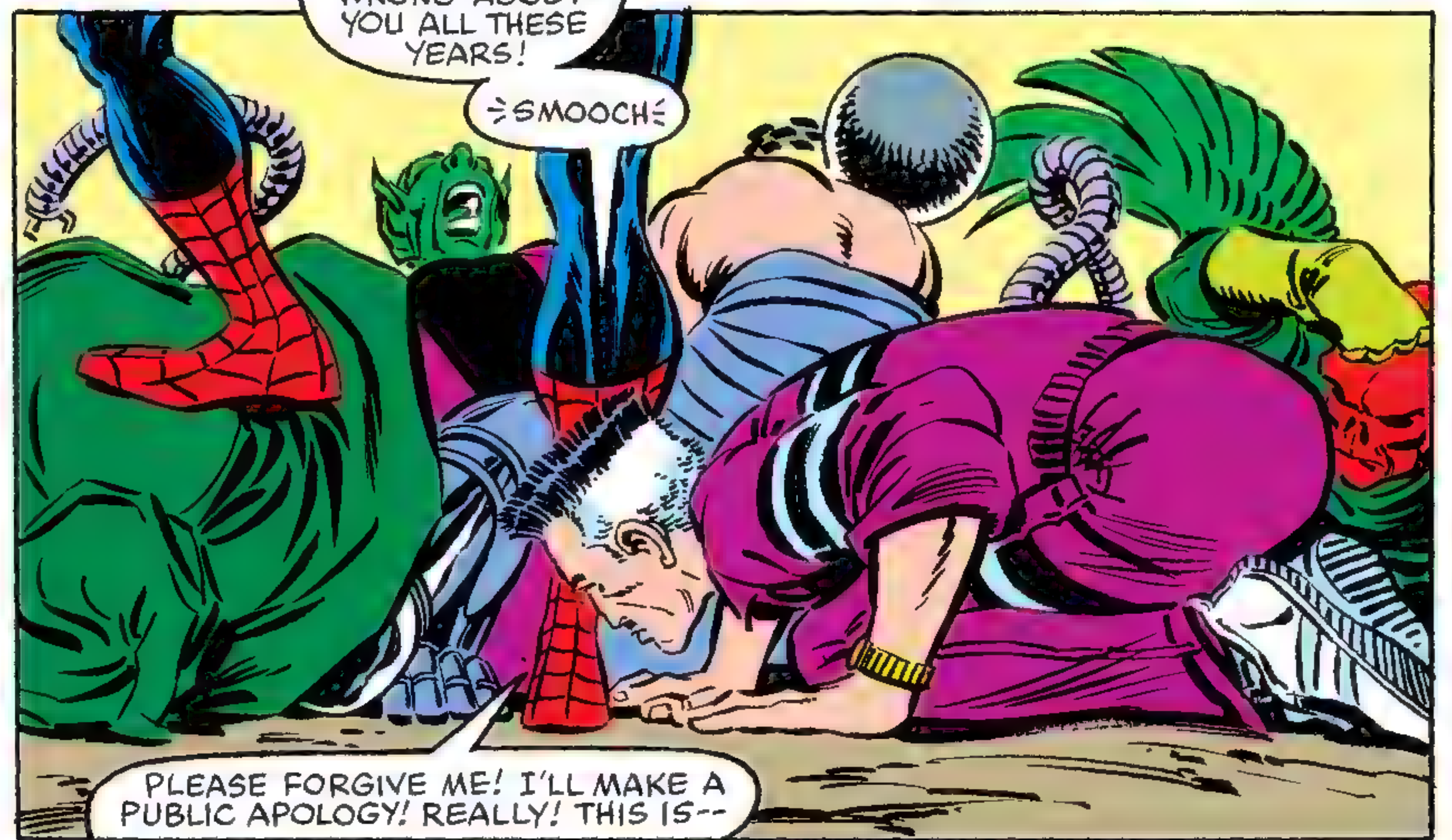
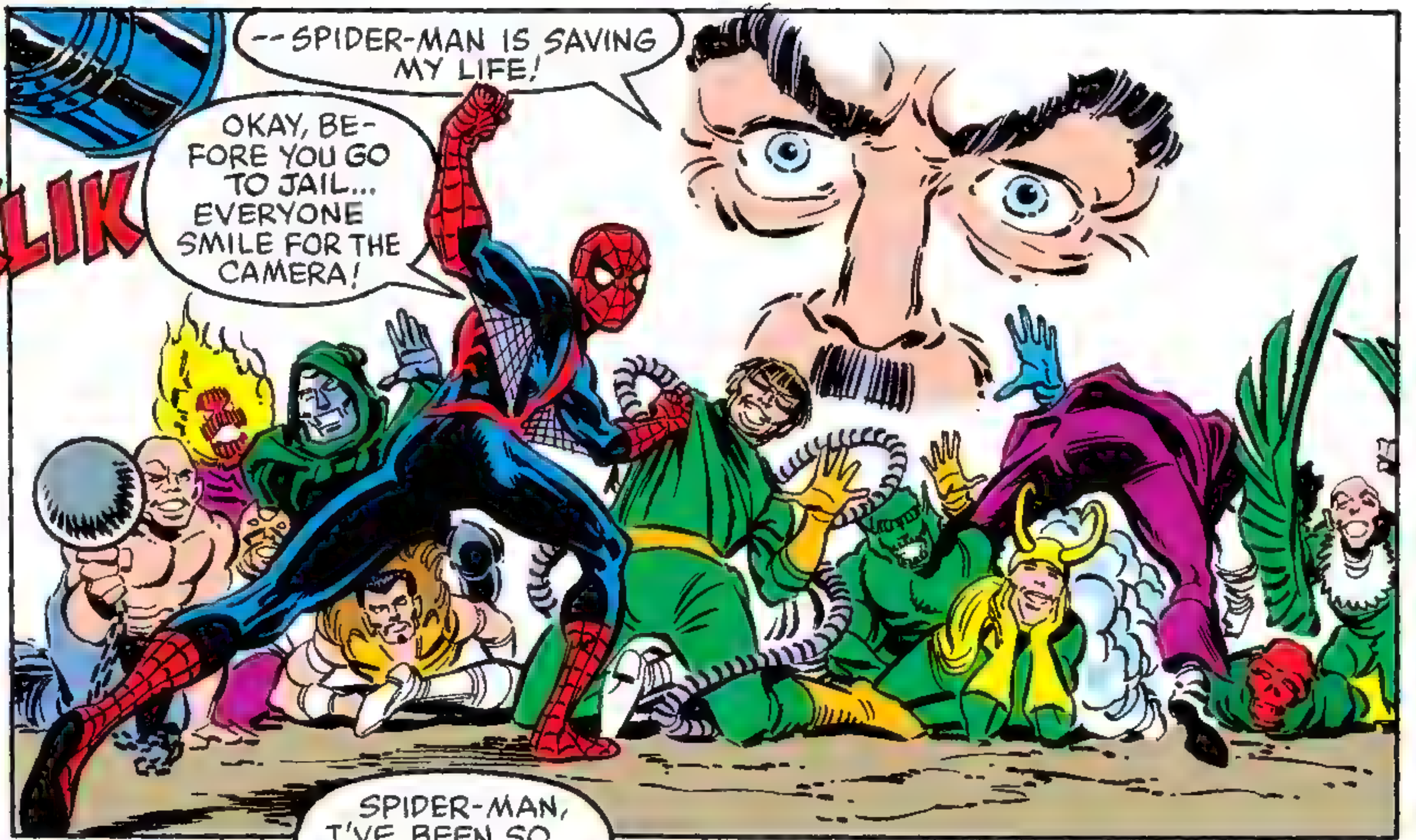
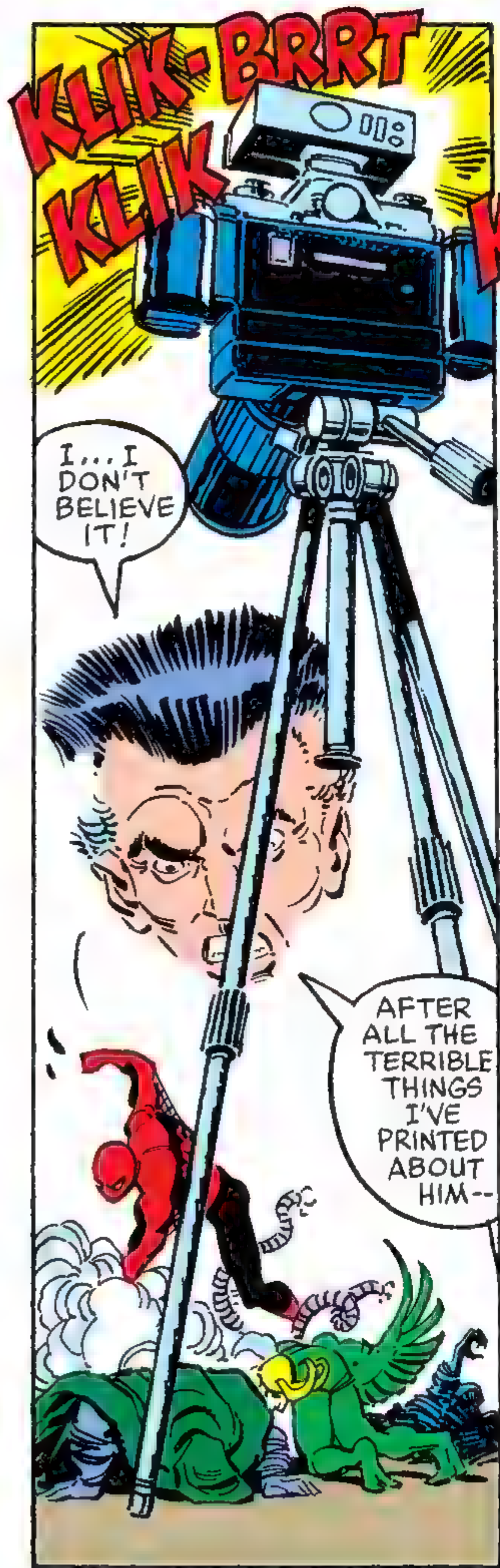
WONDER
WHY HE'S
SUDDENLY
ON THIS
FITNESS
KICK?

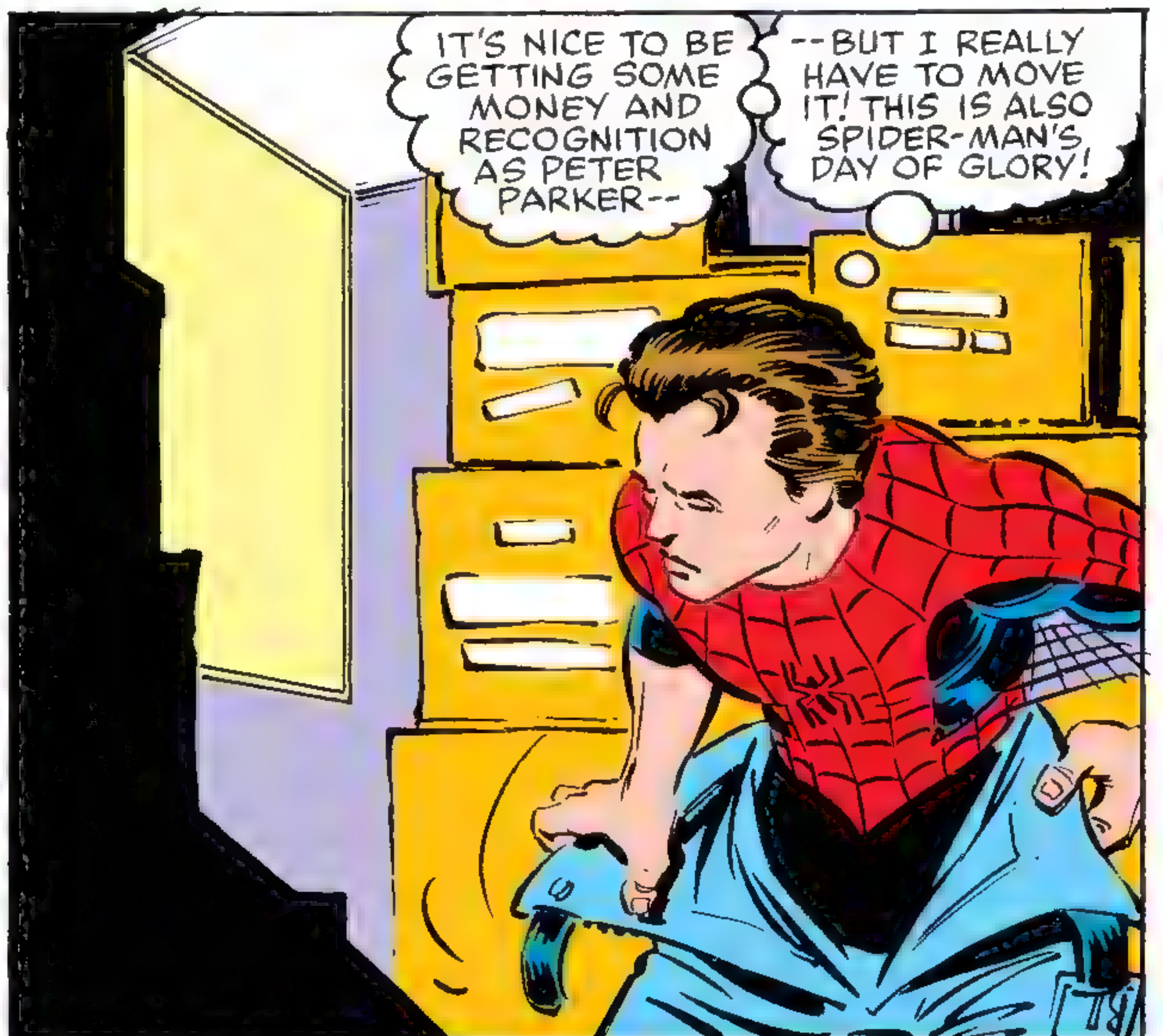
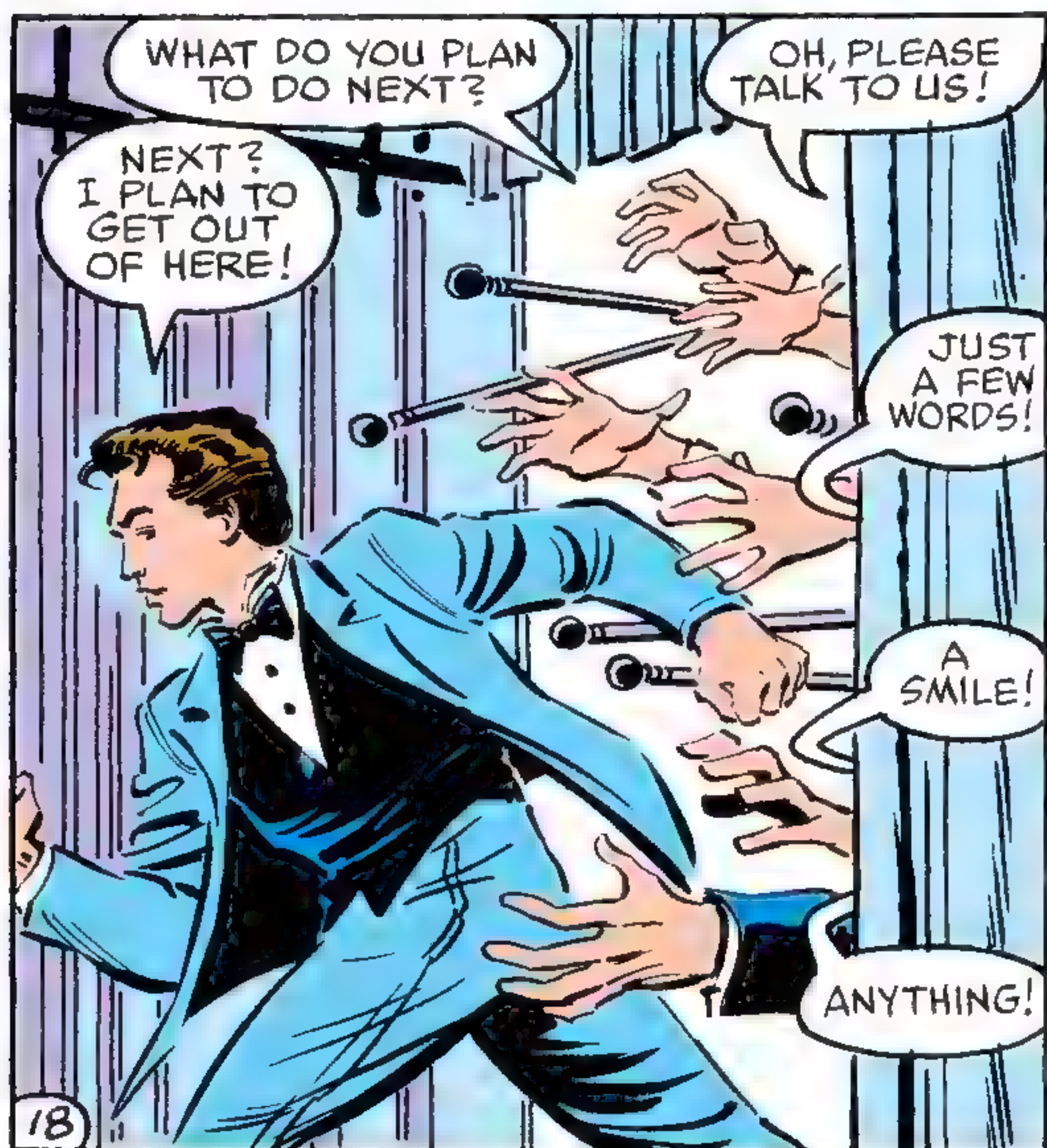
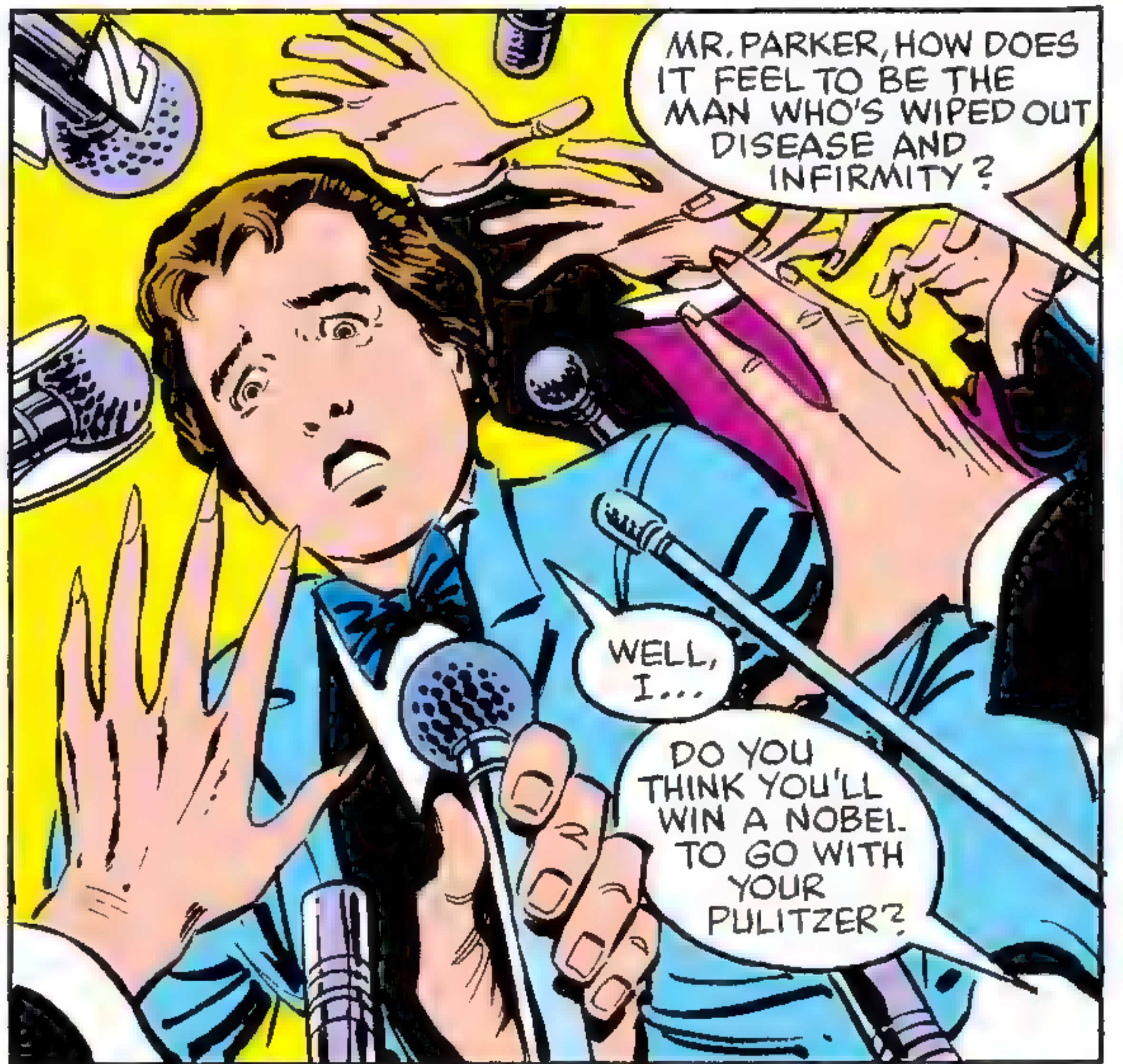
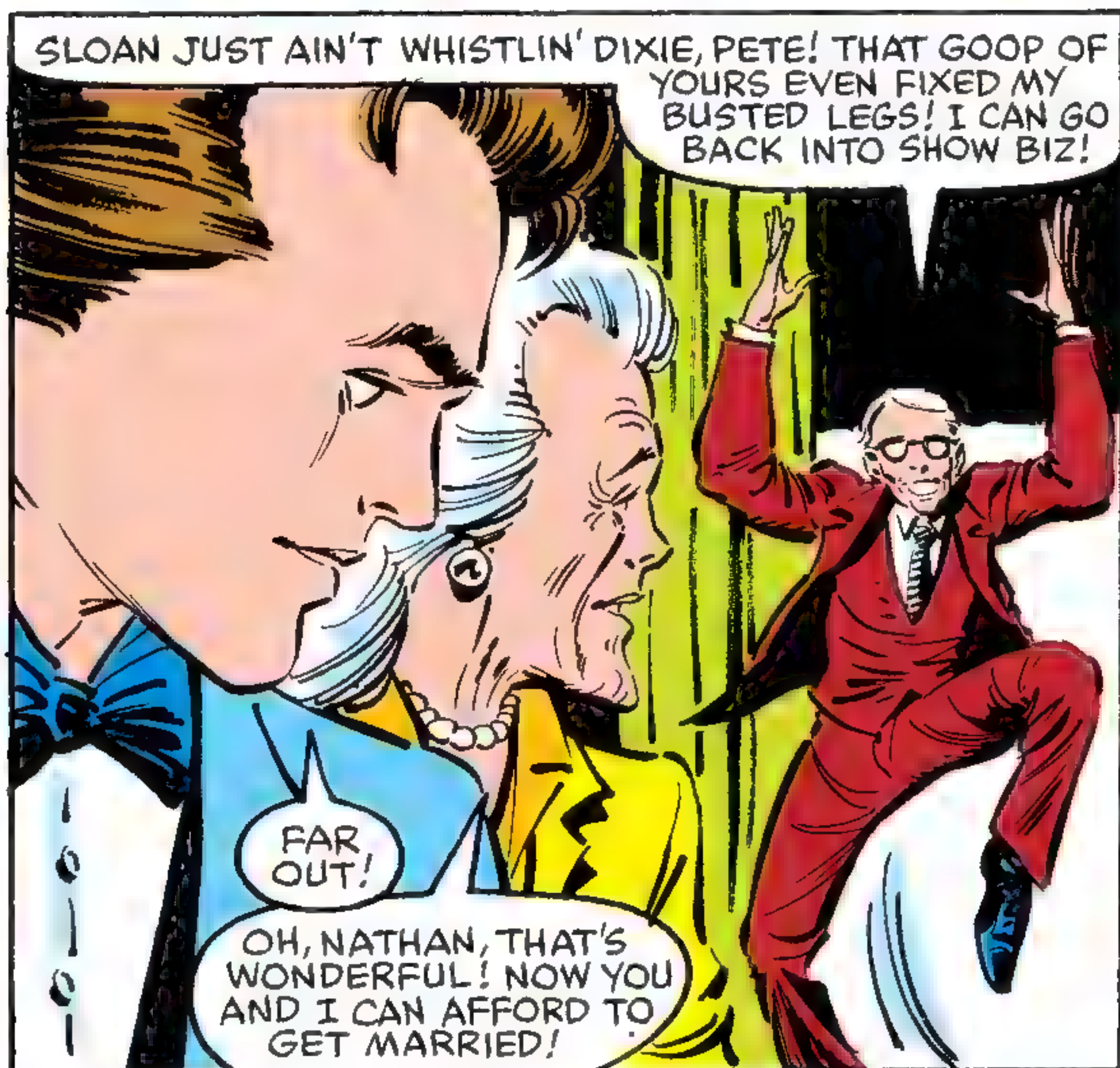
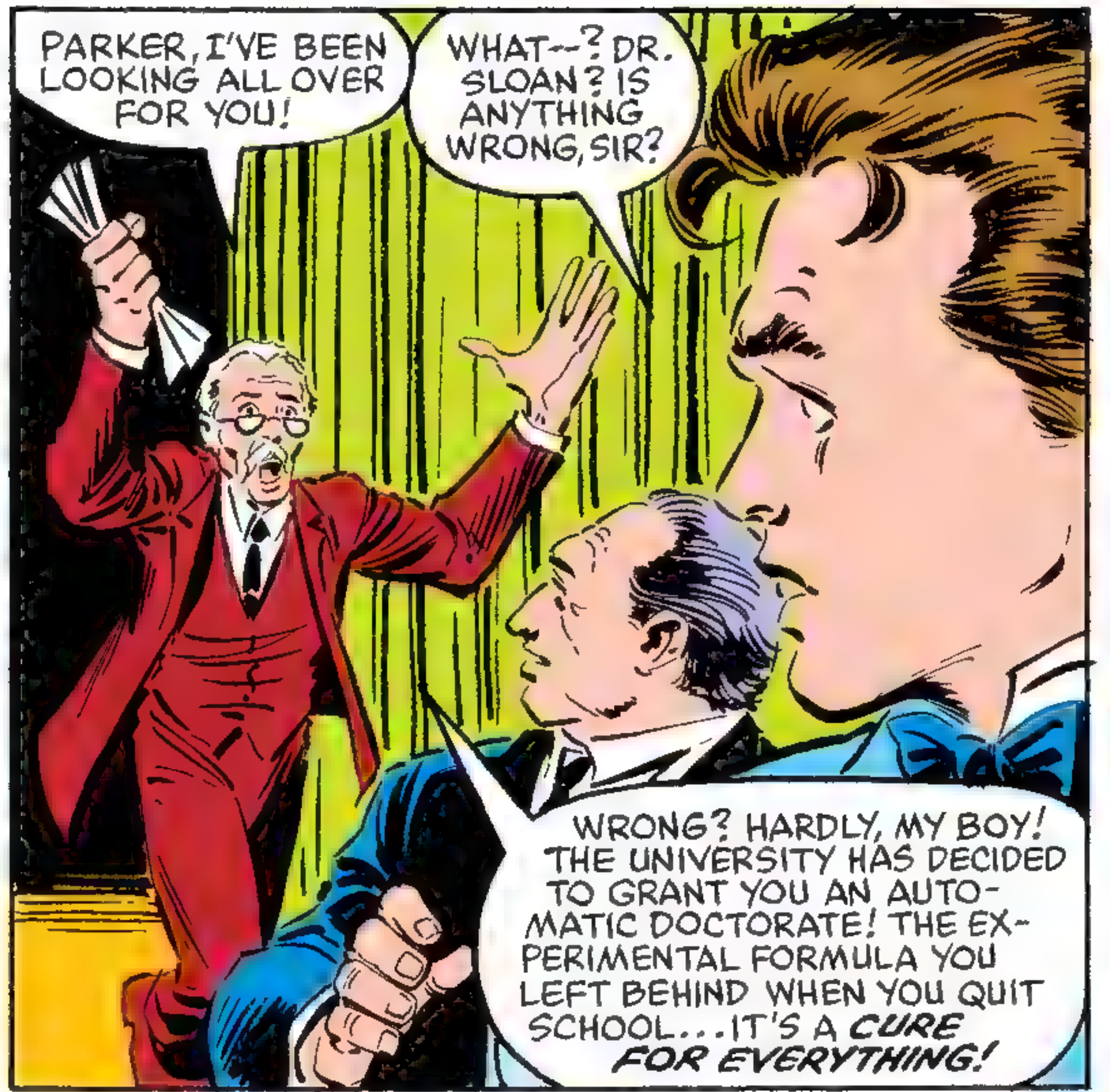
WHOA! MY
SPIDER-SENSE HAS
SUDDENLY STARTED
GIVING AN INDUSTRIAL
STRENGTH DANGER-
BUZZ!

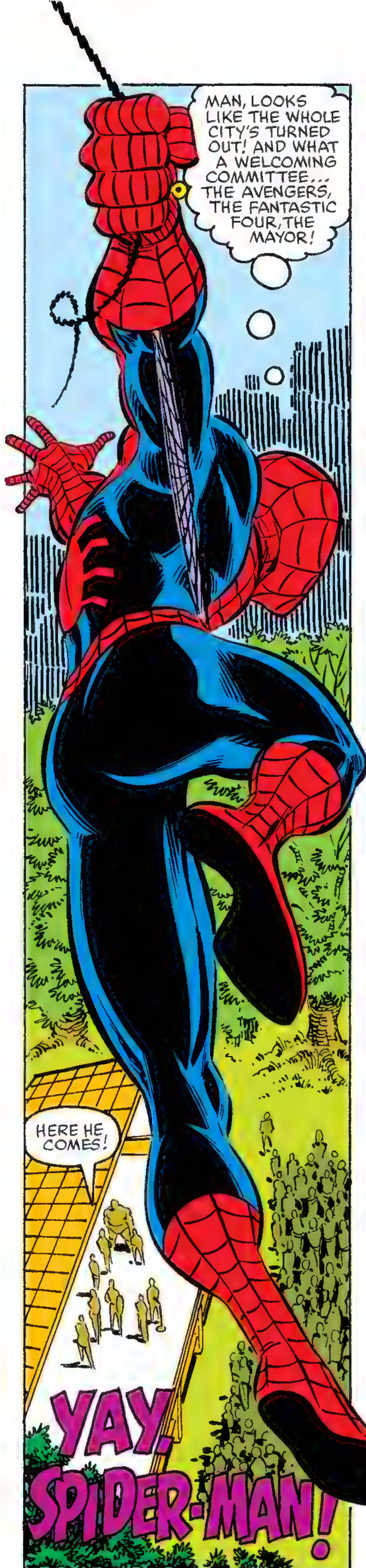
DON'T TELL ME JAMESON
PRESENTS A DANGER! NO,
IT FEELS MORE LIKE--

*TO FIND OUT MORE ABOUT SPIDER-
MAN'S AVENGER AMBITIONS, CHECK OUT
AVENGERS#236 AND 237...NOW ONSALE!









MAN, LOOKS LIKE THE WHOLE CITY'S TURNED OUT! AND WHAT A WELCOMING COMMITTEE... THE AVENGERS, THE FANTASTIC FOUR, THE MAYOR!

HERE HE COMES!

YAY.
SPIDER-MAN!



THIS IS SOME BASH!

NOTHING LESS THAN YOU DESERVE! ALLOW ME TO GIVE YOU THE KEY TO THE CITY!



AND ALLOW US TO MAKE YOU A FULL-FLEDGED AVENGER!

HOLD IT, IRON MAN! WE WANT THE WEB-HEAD IN THE F.F.

WE ASKED HIM FIRST, THING.

OH, YEAH?



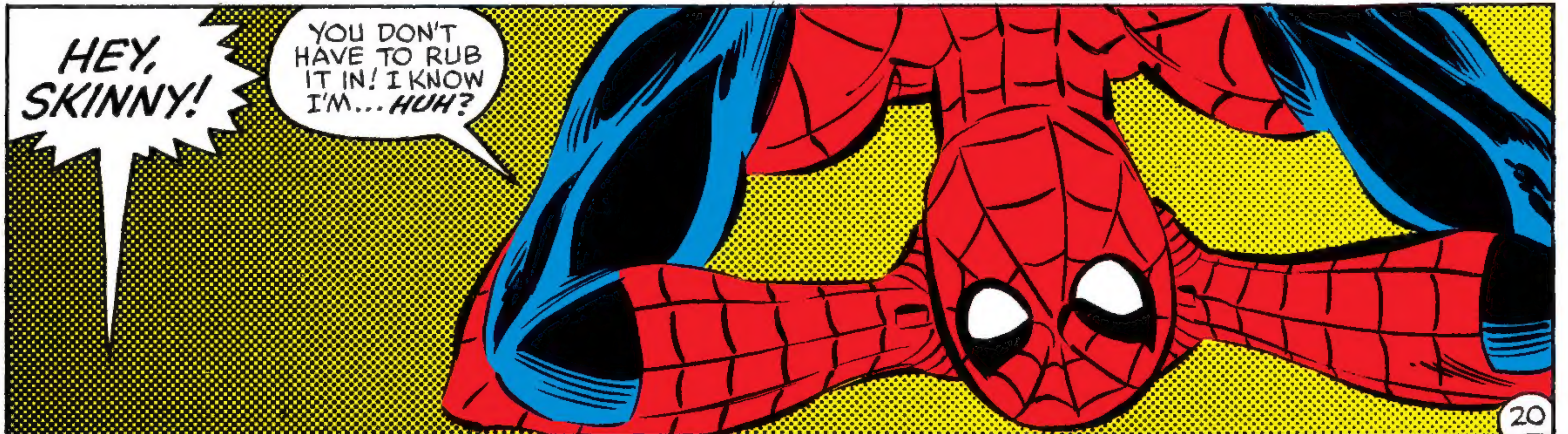
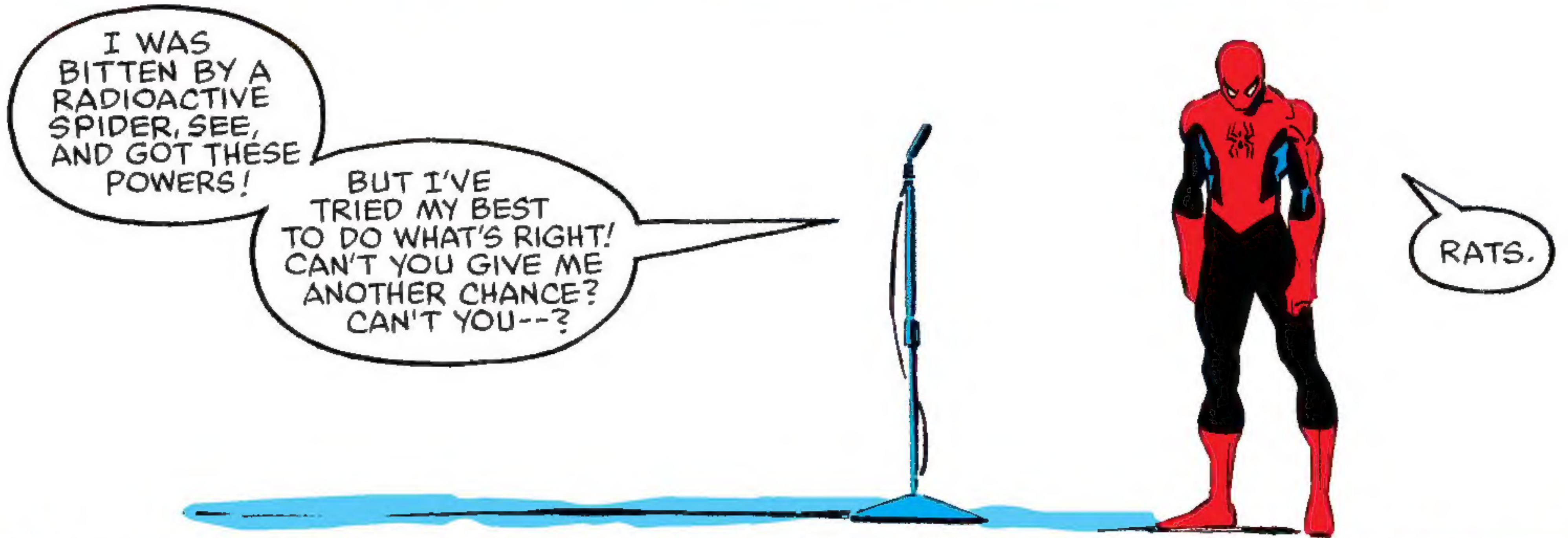
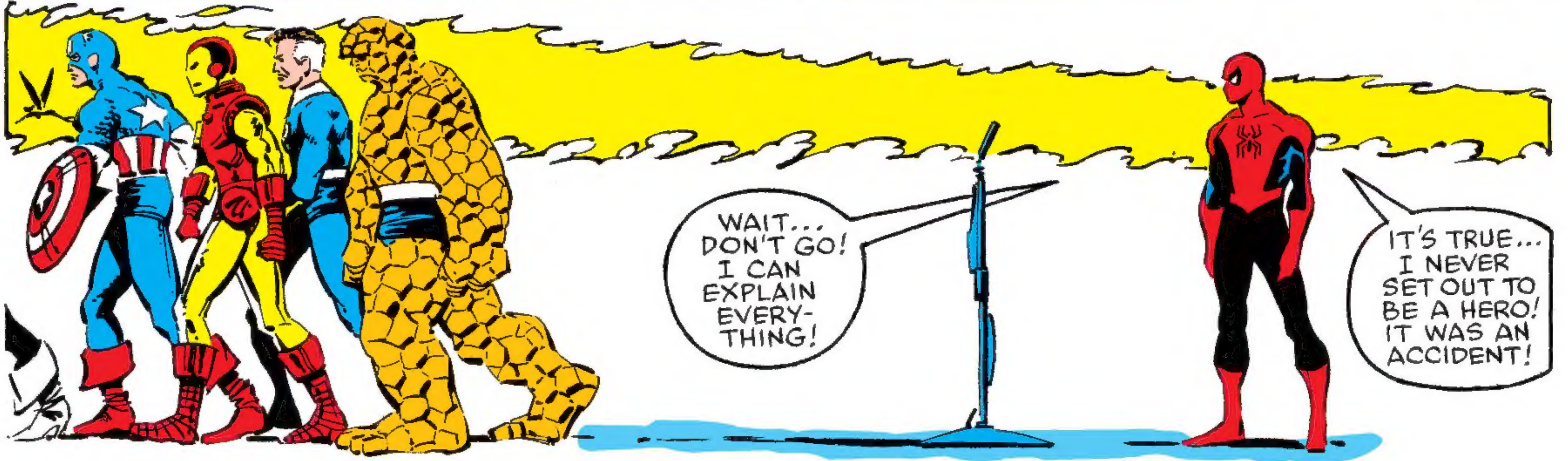
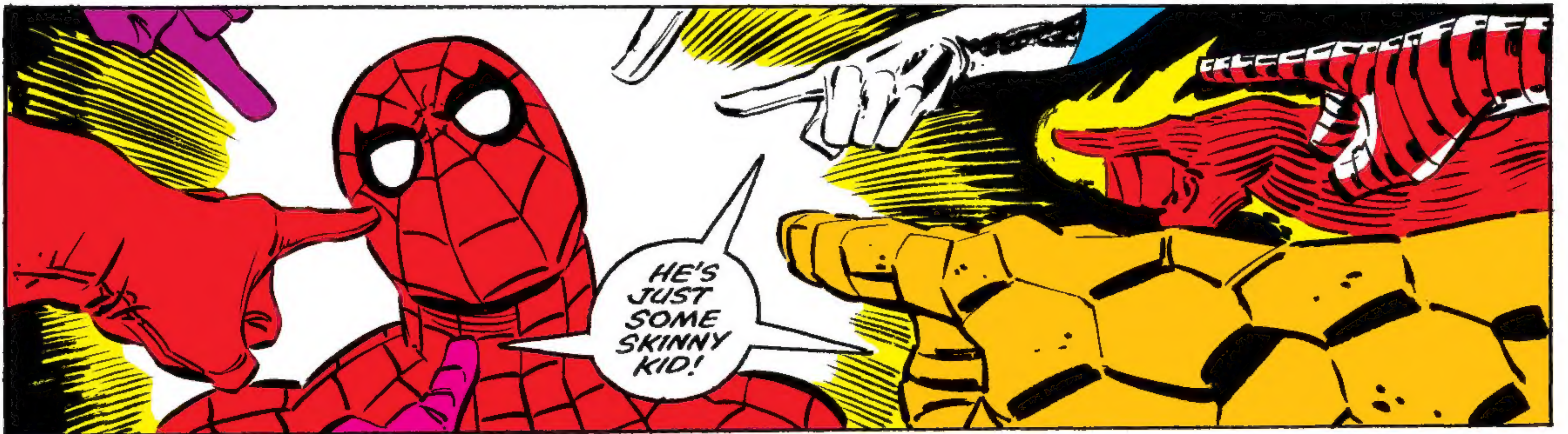
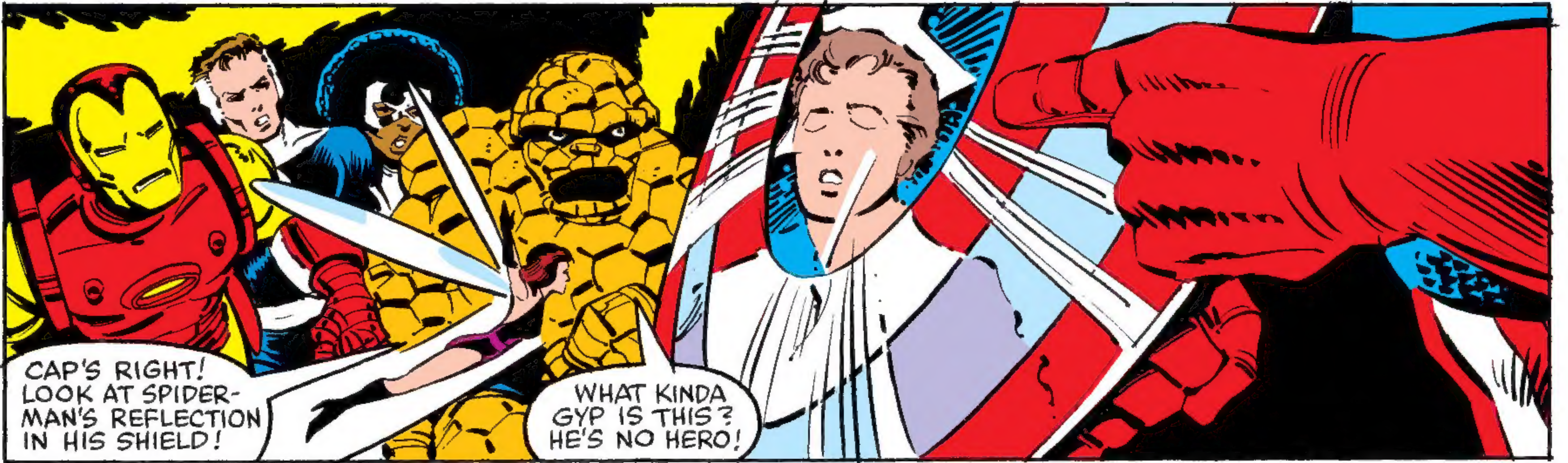
FELLAS, FELLAS! LET'S NOT COME TO BLOWS. TELL YA WHAT ...I'LL BE AN AVENGER MONDAY THROUGH WEDNESDAY, AND AN F.F.ER THURSDAY THROUGH SATURDAY. SUNDAY WILL BE MY DAY OFF.

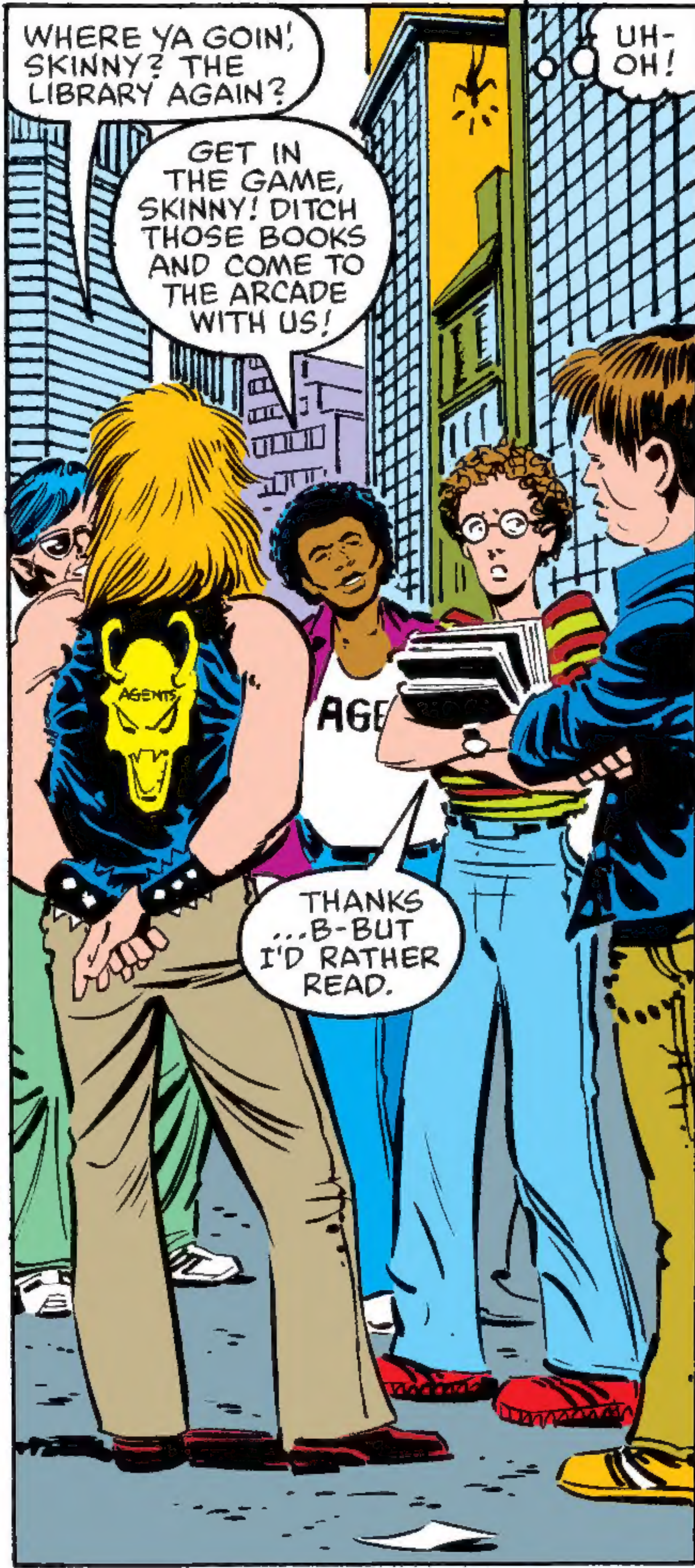
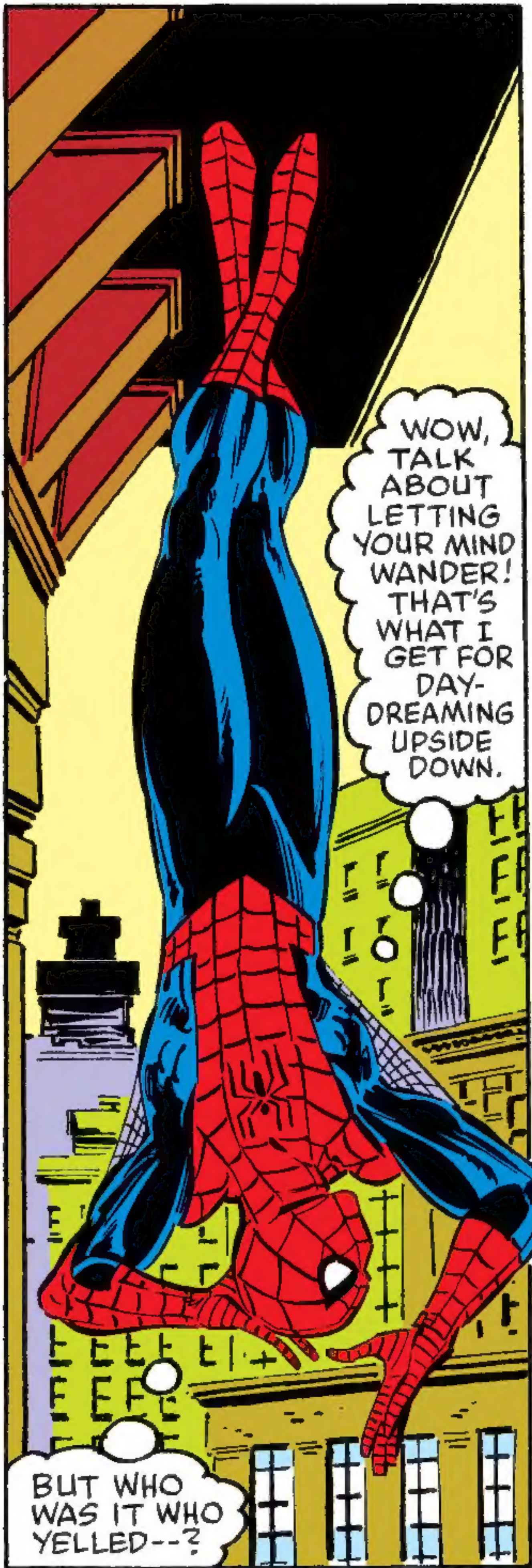
CAN WE LIVE WITH THAT, CAPTAIN AMERICA?



WE'LL HAVE TO, IRON MAN. SPIDER-MAN'S CALLING THE SHOTS NOW!

WE'RE JUST LUCKY HE'S... WAIT A MINUTE! SOMETHING'S WRONG HERE!



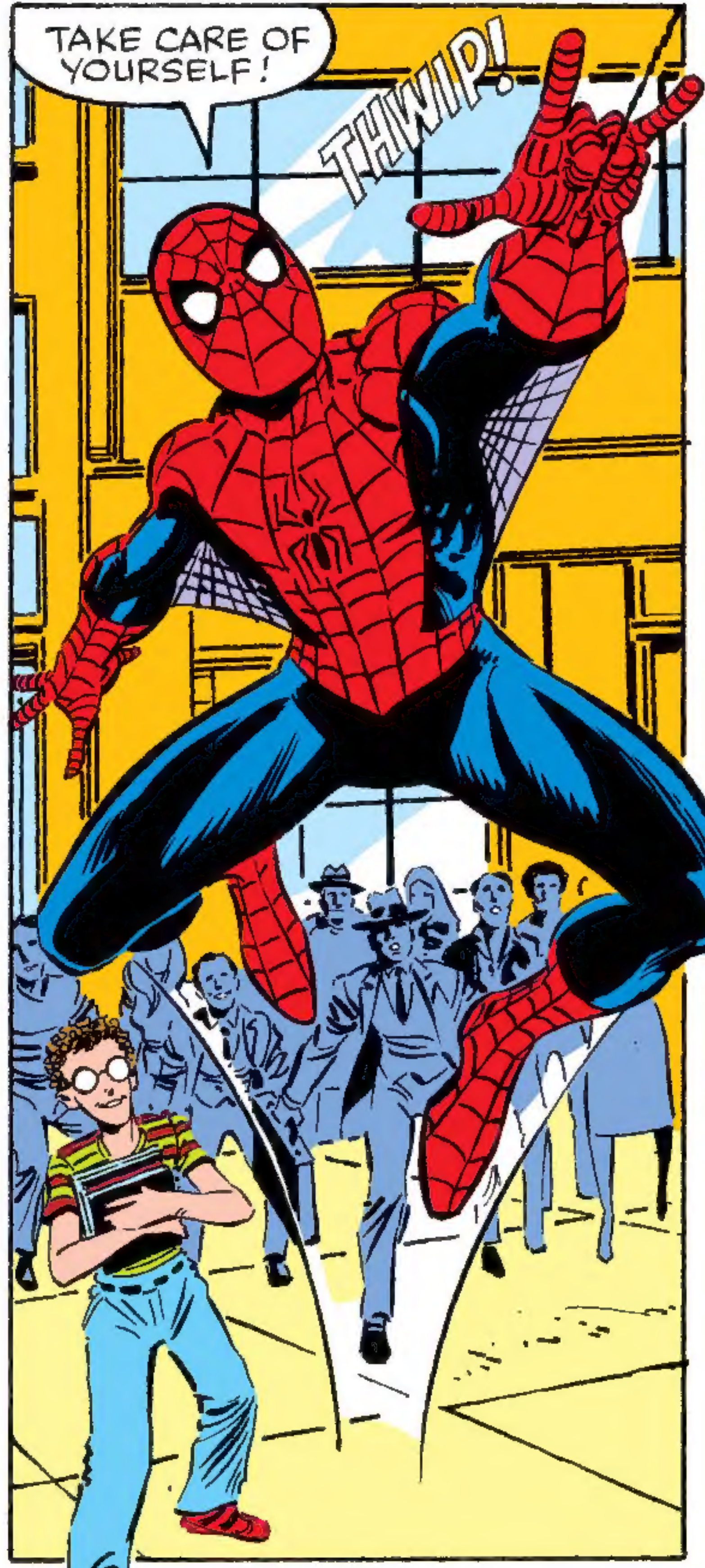


HERE YOU GO, SQUIRT! DON'T LET 'EM GET TO YOU! READING'S ONE OF THE MOST WONDERFUL GIFTS MAN'S BEEN GIVEN.

I-I KNOW. TH-THANK YOU.



DON'T MENTION IT. JUST MAKE SURE YOU DON'T GET SO LOST IN THOSE BOOKS THAT YOU FORGET ABOUT THE REAL WORLD!



TAKE CARE OF YOURSELF!

THWIP!

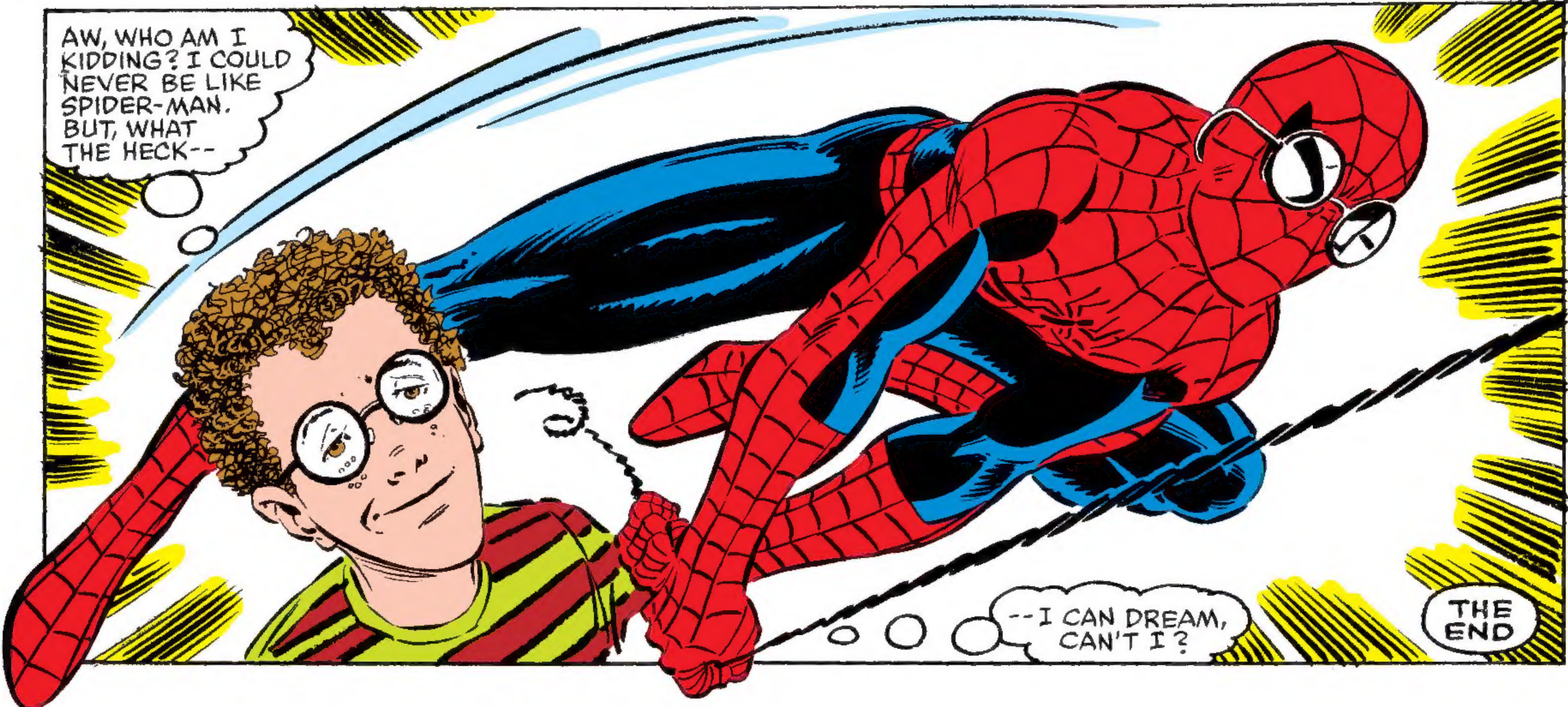
YOU, TOO, SPIDER-MAN!



GEE... SPIDER-MAN! AND HE TALKED TO ME. TO ME!

LOOK AT HIM GO-- SWINGING OVER THE ROOFTOPS EASIER THAN I CROSS THE STREET! BOY, I WISH I COULD BE LIKE HIM!

AW, WHO AM I KIDDING? I COULD NEVER BE LIKE SPIDER-MAN. BUT, WHAT THE HECK--



--I CAN DREAM, CAN'T I?

THE END

THE SPIDER'S WEB

c/o MARVEL COMICS GROUP
387 Park Avenue South
New York, New York 10016

DANNY FINGEROTH
EDITOR
BOB DeNATALE
ASSISTANT EDITOR

Hi. I'm Danny Fingeroth and I've been introducing myself in all the other Spider-Man titles and, boy, am I tired of it! But I'm *not* tired of the ol' web-slinger, that's for sure. I'm going to be editing Spidey's titles (plus KA-ZAR THE SAVAGE) now that Tom DeFalco's been promoted to Executive Editor, and I'm gonna do my best to make sure they stay as good as Tom and his crew made 'em. That's it. I'm gonna shut up now. *You say something...*

Dear Roger, John and Frank:

I *really* liked AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #241. The Cheshire Cat-like cover was great. How about more of the same from John Romita Jr. and Terry Austin? And the coloring really topped the whole thing off.

John and Frank's use of shadow on Spider-Man's costume was much appreciated. This issue there is often more black than blue in the costume, and I think it looks great! The June issues of SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN and MARVEL TEAM-UP also showed a darker costume. Is this the subtle change which Tom DeFalco mentioned in MARVEL AGE #2?

Roger Stern is both an excellent writer and – apparently – an Amazing Spider-Fan. The man who brought Spider-Man back to his old high school and the General Techtronics Labs, where it all began, now discloses the origin of the Vulture *and* returns us to almost-forgotten locales such as the Vulture's Staten Island farm. This attention to Spider-Man's past gives the reader something else to look for that is found in few other titles. This is a major reason why AMAZING SPIDER-MAN is on my must-buy list.

Doug Buseck
Culver City, CA 90230

You did indeed pick up on the new change in Spider-Man's attire, Doug... or perhaps we should say, *old* change. Ya see, Spider-Man's costume started out as red and black with blue highlights... but somehow, over the years, the black areas got smaller and smaller until the Spider-suit was red and blue. Well, with the issues you mentioned, we finally decided it was time to get back to basics. We think it's a bold, dramatic look, and it's nice to see that you agree. How do the rest of you like it?

And as long as we're soliciting opinions, howdja like this issue's story? Our creative crew had the time of their lives working on it. It was a gamble... but we think it paid off! After all, how else could you get to see ol' JJJ givin' Spidey's webbed feet a smooch? But we've got to know how *you* liked our off-beat offering. Tell us. Fast.

Dear Marvel,

After finishing AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #241, I realized that something was very, very wrong... not just in this issue, but in the past four or five. Peter Parker's life is just going *too well*. One of the first things that I liked about the ol' Wall-crawler was that he had problems, just like everybody else. What happened to his money problems, his hassles with J. Jonah Jameson, his aunt's sudden illnesses?

I know this sounds strange, but mess up

his life a little. Make an embarrassing situation, put JJJ on an anti-Spider-Man rampage, or have Pete's sweet Aunt May get kidnapped.

Why don't you give away Spider-Man's identity? The whole world doesn't have to know... just one or two people.

By the way – you've probably heard this a million times, but let's make it a million-and-one – the creative crew on AMAZING SPIDER-MAN is great.

Dary Moyoffarian
Mercer Island, WA 98040

Whew! We're glad you threw in the last sentence, Dary! For a minute there, you had us thinking you didn't like *anything* we've done!

But as for Pete's life going too well... hey, are you pulling our legs? In the four or five issues prior to #241, Pete's had to face the Hobgoblin, a fellow he's at least partially responsible for... and a gent who might know his secret identity. He's had to face both the Owl and Dr. Octopus, and he's worried himself silly over whether or not the Black Cat would pull through. Since then, he's been caught up unwillingly in a lover's triangle with Lance Bannon and Amy Powell, and come to the hard decision that he had to quit school. If that's your idea of the good life, we hate to think of what you'd consider a bad day!

Sheesh! Give poor Pete a break, will ya?

Dear Guys,

The AMAZING SPIDER-MAN has been my favorite comic since the first time I read it, but there's still a lot I'd like to know about Spider-Man. How much can he lift? How high can he jump? What's his endurance like?

Alfred Lyon
San Jose, CA 95125

Hey, Al, if it's spider-data you want, then you need look no further than issue #10 of THE OFFICIAL HANDBOOK OF THE MARVEL UNIVERSE, still on sale! Not only does said issue tell you all you'd ever want to know about May Parker's favorite nephew, but it gives the low-down on everything from S.H.I.E.L.D. to the Sub-Mariner. Watch for it!

Dear Marvel,

You guys are without equal when it comes to original, out-of-the-ordinary, and yet believable origins for your heroes and villains. Even so, the Vulture's past had been left more or less a mystery... until issue #241. (That long-term mystery, in itself, was original and out-of-the-ordinary.)

"In the Beginning..." gave a very believable account of how and why the origin of the Vulture had been so long shrouded in mystery. The animosity Vulture had for Bestman was his to settle, and his alone. He wasn't concerned with trying to broadcast his story to the world.

Another aspect of the story I found pleasing was the fact that the Vulture didn't attempt to alibi or excuse his behavior. He wanted revenge on Bestman for cheating him, but didn't blame Bestman for making him a criminal. That was his own decision. It looks like Bestman will finally see justice – which I'm sure the Vulture will consider a vic-

tory of sorts – but the Vulture will continue to live, as he has, the life of a super-criminal.

Rod Wahowske
Emmett, MI 48022

Dear John and Terry:

AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #241 – what a cover!

Ben Varkentine
Mountain View, CA 94040

And now, once again, for the possible answers to the question that's on the lips of all America... "Who is the Hobgoblin?"...

Dear Spider-Men:

I've come up with a *lot* of possibilities for the secret identity of Hobgoblin:

- 1) Dr. Jonas Harrow
- 2) J. Jonah Jameson
- 3) Another clone of Prof. Warren (The Jackal)
- 4) Mysterio
- 5) Danny Berkhart (the ersatz Mysterio from issue #s 141 and 142)
- 6) The fella with no name from issue #153
- 7) The Tinkerer
- 8) Bart Hamilton
- 9) The Chameleon
- 10) Jackson Weele
- 11) Mesmero

David Torsiello
South Orange, NJ 07079

After reading and re-reading recent issues of the AMAZING SPIDER-MAN, I have come to the startling conclusion that Harry Osborn is the Hobgoblin.

Mike Udel
Dallas, TX 75229

I have figured out who the Hobgoblin is. His name... Felipe Picaro (from AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #16).

Mark Gangi
Milltown, NJ 08850

Professor Stromm...

Jason Crom
Northwood, IA 50459

Hobgoblin is Steve Ditko.

Al Yuen
San Francisco, CA

And the guesses just keep on coming! Are any of them right? Only time and destiny will tell. (But, in all fairness, we can disqualify one of those guesses. We happen to have seen Steve Ditko talking with Al Milgrom in the Bullpen, the *alst* time the Hobgoblin went into action. So that eliminates Steve... if it *was* Steve and not a cleverly disguised double! Gee, you don't suppose – ?)

NEXT ISSUE: Spider-Man won't have any time for daydreaming next month as his search for the Hobgoblin continues, but all he finds are... "Interruptions!" How so? Well, for one thing, our old buddy Nose Norton is finally out of the hospital and out on the streets... with a very mysterious trombone case! There's something bizarre bounding across the rooftops of Brooklyn! And, hey, what *is* it about Mary Jane Watson's past? Curious? Then check out AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #247, on sale in just thirty days. You'll be glad you did!
— Danny Fingeroth